

OAU may boycott U.K., W. Germany

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — The secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) is proposing a worldwide boycott of British and West German goods because of those countries' refusal to impose sanctions against South Africa. "It is Western governments that have proved to be the protectors of the apartheid regime, even at these times of universal condemnation of the state of emergency in South Africa," Ide Oumarou of Niger said in a report to the OAU's council of ministers. "The British government together with the government of the Federal Republic of Germany have openly said no to sanctions against South Africa." The report was presented to the ministers on Friday, but was not released to journalists until Saturday, the first full day of debate on the document.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز بومعة سياسية نعتية بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي.

Volume 11 Number 3189

AMMAN, SUNDAY MARCH 2, 1986, JUMADA THANI 21, 1406

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Israel says two commandos killed

SHTULA (AP) — Commandos wearing Israeli army uniforms and religious skullcaps tried to infiltrate through an electronic border fence Saturday, but Israeli soldiers thwarted the attempt, killing two commandos, Israeli soldiers at the site of the clash said. The army spokesman's office reported that an Israeli soldier was wounded and treated on the spot. Security sources said the group belonged to Nayef Hawatme's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Woerner: Europe needs nuclear arms

MUNICH (R) — The total elimination of nuclear weapons in the foreseeable future is impossible, West German Defence Minister Manfred Woerner said Saturday. Mr. Woerner said in a speech to arms specialists in Munich that the elimination of nuclear weapons would lead to strategic instability if it left the Warsaw Pact with the conventional superiority it had at the moment.

Traffic yet to resume across Nigerian borders

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria, black Africa's economic giant, officially declared its long-closed borders open from Saturday but normal traffic appeared slow to resume. At Seme, an important crossing point from Benin, an army officer told reporters he was not letting in anyone until he received orders from his commanding officer, saying he could not rely on press reports about the opening. The situation at Nigeria's nearly 100 other border posts with Benin, Niger and Cameroon was unclear and seemed likely to be as at Seme.

Boesak rescues alleged informer

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Anti-apartheid leader Rev. Allan Boesak on Saturday saved a suspected police informer from a brutal assault by angry funeral goers, witnesses said. Mr. Boesak leaped from the altar of a church in a black township near George, a coastal resort near Cape Town, and dragged the man to safety as mourners shouted, "kill the traitor" and "burn informers."

Kuwait seeks end to row with S. Korea

KUWAIT (R) — A row between Kuwait Airways and Korean Airlines over flight rights has been referred to the Foreign Ministry for a diplomatic solution, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Saturday. It quoted the national carrier's chairman Ahmad Al Meshari as saying Kuwait Airways was suspending its weekly flight to Seoul from Sunday because Korean Airlines "blocked efforts to reach a mutually agreeable accord providing for continuation." A South Korean Transportation Ministry spokesman said on Saturday Kuwait Airways had been barred after failure to agree a commercial accord covering compensation for Korean Airlines, which ended flights to Kuwait last December.

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Hunt on for Palme killer; Carlsson named premier

Combined agency dispatches

SWEDISH PRIME Minister Olof Palme, a champion of global peace and disarmament, was assassinated early Friday and the entire Swedish police force mounted the largest manhunt ever seen the country in search of the unidentified gunman.

As crowds of shocked bystanders openly wept in the city centre street where Mr. Palme, 59, was gunned down after leaving a cinema with his wife Lisbet Sunday night, police cordoned off parts of the city and mounted stringent checks on everyone leaving ports and airports. Denmark, Norway and Finland also tightened border security.



Olof Palme

The assassination was Sweden's first political murder in modern times. Police said they had no immediate clues as to the identity of the killer or his motive, although there was no indication so far it might have been politically motivated.

Stockholm police chief Hans Holmer said the police had carried out many raids in the last few hours, but admitted: "We have no hot leads to follow."

However in London an anonymous telephone caller told an international news agency that a group called the Holger Meins Commando had carried out the attack, although the caller gave no reason.

Holger Meins, which has links with the West German Baader Meinhof and Red Army urban guerrilla organisations, claimed responsibility for a 1975 attack on the West German embassy in Stockholm in which two diplomats and a guerrilla were killed.

The London caller, speaking English with a Northern European accent, said the Holger Meins Commando had killed Mr.

Palme but he refused to give any reason for the attack.

"You can check the history books for why this was carried out. I am not prepared to tell you over the phone," the man said before cutting short the call.

Holger Meins was one of the original members of the Baader-Meinhof gang, the leftist group that later became known as the Red Army Faction.

He was arrested June 1, 1972, in Frankfurt along with Andreas Baader, one of the co-founders of the Baader-Meinhof gang, and Jan Carl Raspe, another original member of the group.

(Continued on page 3)

King sends cable of condolences to Carl Gustav and Palme family

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme had deprived the world of an able peace-maker and sent condolences on Saturday to King Carl Gustav.

"This criminal act and criminal hand which was behind it deprived the world of an able statesman who dedicated his life to peace, understanding and cooperation between nations," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, quoted the King as saying.

"All those who knew Mr. Palme had always shared with him the hope for a better future for humanity and recognised his great contribution to the betterment of mankind," the King said.

The King said the Jordanian government and people share with him his deep and profound pain and sorrow for the loss of Mr. Palme. King Hussein also sent a cable of condolence to Mrs. Palme expressing his heart felt sorrow and sadness.

The late Swedish premier, the King said in his cable, had won the respect of all world leaders through his true devotion to the cause of peace and understanding among nations and many people around the world certainly share with you the pain and the grief for his loss. The King said Her Majesty Queen Noor shared with him the sorrow for the loss of the great statesman and offered her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved Palme family and wished Mrs. Palme speedy recovery from injuries she sustained in the criminal assault.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai also sent a cable of condolences to Ingvar Carlsson, Mr. Palme's deputy who was nominated as successor to the Swedish Socialist Democratic Party chairmanship and premiership.

Mr. Rifai said that he was shocked by the news of the assassination which deprived Sweden of a "great man who offered valuable service to his country and the world at large."

GCC seeks ways to contain Gulf war

RIYADH (AP) — Foreign ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met here Saturday to discuss means of reactivating a peace bid between warring Iran and Iraq, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs announced.

"Despite the dangerous outbreak of renewed fighting, Iran's seizure of Iraqi territory, we must reevaluate our efforts for a peaceful settlement," Yousef Alawi told the meeting, in his capacity as the current chairman of the GCC ministerial council. "The escalation exposes our region to the menace of being sucked into the war and of external military intervention."

He said the Arab Gulf powers were to address an appeal to Iran to "cooperate with us for an end to the war."

He said the conference also was to discuss means of bolstering the region's economic pact and collective security arrangements, in addition to ways of strengthening Arab solidarity.

Arab diplomatic sources said the Syrian leadership has assured the GCC powers that it was against any expansion of the scope of war, especially when hostilities threatened Kuwait and other Arab countries in the region.

The ministers were to review and evaluate an Algerian mediation bid between the warring sides, taking note of the U.N. Security Council's demand for an immediate ceasefire to pave the road for negotiations between Iran and Iraq, these diplomats said.

Algerian Foreign Minister, Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim visited a number of Arab Gulf capitals to prepare a peace formula before holding talks in Baghdad and Tehran.

The same diplomats said the GCC countries were willing to help Iran and Iraq rehabilitate their war-damaged economies, as a contribution to the desired peace settlement.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are Iraq's main financial backers. They have also been selling some 300,000 barrels of oil a day on behalf of Iraq.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei was recently quoted as threatening to seize tankers that carry oil to Iraq's contract customers (See page 2).

Sweden in horror, page 3

Swedish in horror, page 3

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Swedish in horror, page 3

Swedish in horror, page 3



HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN and senior government officials during celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the Arabisation of Jordan's armed forces on Saturday at the Palace of Culture.

King: No real Arab dignity until occupied land is freed

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said on Saturday that there could be no real dignity for any living Arab unless the dignity of the Arab people living under Israeli rule is re-established and their lands are liberated.

King Hussein was addressing delegations representing the Ta'amreh, Al Ubeidiah and Ras-haide tribes as well as representatives of refugee camps in Bethlehem, Beit Fajar, Qubha, Ya'bud, Taura, Amman, Zahda, Ain Al Sabla and Deir Aban, Irtas and Housan who visited the Royal Court to express support for the King on his national stands vis-a-vis the Palestine question.

The King told the audience that he found it difficult to "live with myself while my kinsmen and brothers continue to suffer in the occupied lands."

"It is high time for us to rise to the level of responsibility and carry out our duty as partners and comrades to our brothers and rescue the Arab people who have been suffering from the yoke of occupation over the past 19 years," the King said.

He said Jordan "has had difference of views with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership and the matter is now left to you to handle."

"We have been coordinating

with the PLO in every step and stage, but we have been surprised lately by the PLO's final stand and therefore I have decided to bring up the matter to you because you should be the decision makers in this particular issue," he said.

"Jordan," he said, "is hoping to convene an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations Security Council for the sake of preventing an internationalisation of the Middle East conflict, and because we realise that the danger is now threatening the Arab identity and threatening all of us."

Speaking on behalf of the delegations was Mohammad Al Thawra, parliament deputy, representing the Bethlehem constituency. He said the people of his region renew allegiance to the Hashemite throne and follow up with deep interest and concern all the monarch's steps that aim at finding a just and durable solution for their problem."

"We had attacked great hopes on Jordan-PLO talks and waited for a long time for results," Mr. Thawra said. He said the King's speech on the outcome of the negotiations put things in their right perspective and "it is clear now that there can be no more procrastination or delay because the steadfast people in the occu-

upied lands are awaiting salvation and this they hope to be achieved with Your Majesty's help."

Mr. Thawra reaffirmed that "the people of the two banks of Jordan will remain united under the King's banner whatever the cost."

Another speaker was Muhammad Alqam who said that villages, refugees and all the population in the Bethlehem region have been moved by the King's speech and they all pledge to support the monarch's endeavours to arrive at a solution for their problem.

"The holy land, where Christ was born, and Al Aqsa Mosque are calling out for help and we, the Palestinians who live on that land, have come to you to declare to the whole world that we will remain united as one family, marching behind King Hussein."

He said the delegations came to bless the steps and the course of action taken by the monarch to save his kinsmen and bring them freedom.

The Royal Court announced Saturday that it received more cables of support for the King. The cables came from refugees, tribes, towns and villages and various organisations in the Kingdom pledged total support for and allegiance to the King.

Hand-to-hand battles at Fao reported; Gulf oil tanker hit

Combined agency dispatches

AN IRAQI commander on Saturday reported hand-to-hand fighting with Iranian troops on the southern Gulf war front overnight, after Iraqi warplanes hit another tanker in the northern Gulf.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) estimated Iranian casualties in the Fao operation at more than 60,000 killed or wounded, many in the more than 8,500 air strikes Iraq reported since the start of the assault.

Both sides also traded claims and counter-claims about the progress of battles around the Iraqi Kurdish provincial capital of Sulaymaniyah in northeast Iraq, where Iran began a new offensive last Monday.

Iran claimed on Friday that its forces had advanced so that the village of Chawarta, northeast of Sulaymaniyah, was in the direct firing range of the Iranian gunners.

But an Iraqi military communiqué said that in the Chawarta area, "our forces have taken the initiative and are continuing to put pressure on the enemy, inflicting massive losses in men and equipment."

Iraq on Saturday said its jets at 3:35 a.m. had struck the Abadan head bridge in Iran's oil-rich Khuzestan province, knocking it out of commission. Baghdad Radio said the bridge had previously been hit by Iraqi jets on Feb. 21.

An Iraqi military spokesman said Iraqi jets hit a "large naval target" near the Iranian coast Friday night, and Gulf shipping sources said the 105,000-ton, Hong Kong-owned Energy Courage was hit by an Iraqi missile as it steamed towards Iran's Kharg Island oil

terminal to take on crude. It was the fourth confirmed strike by Iraqi warplanes or naval vessels in five days.

The 132,000-ton Liberian-flag Castor was still blazing on Saturday after an Iraqi missile attack on Thursday which killed two Filipino crewmen and wounded others, the sources told Reuters.

The Energy Courage's owners, Pan Asia Tanker Services, said there were no casualties in the latest attack, but the ship was crippled and was being towed to Bahrain.

The Iraqi newspaper Al Thawra on Saturday quoted a field commander on the Fao Peninsula in southern Iraq as saying his men fought hand-to-hand battles with Iranian troops who attacked forward Iraqi positions Friday night.

Iraqi troops have been battling for nearly three weeks to crush Iranian forces who captured the disused Iraqi oil port of Fao at the mouth of the Shatt Al Arab waterway and surrounding territory in an offensive launched on Feb. 9.

Al Thawra quoted another officer, commanding troops at the centre of a three-pronged Iraqi

counter-attack, as saying his men had in the previous 24 hours repelled six Iranian attempts to retake positions reoccupied by the Iraqi advance.

Abdul-Jabbar Mohsen, director-general of the armed forces' political department, was meanwhile quoted as saying Iraqi warplanes had flown over 8,000 missions against Iranian troop positions since the latest upsurge in the fighting.

Al Thawra quoted him as saying the air force had lost only seven aircraft, compared with more than 50 Iran claims to have downed, while Iranian losses had been 15 planes.

He also said Iranian territorial gains in the offensive had never exceeded 80 square kilometres.

The newspaper quoted the third army's air defence commander as saying Iraqi helicopter gunships had also played a big part in the battle for Fao, flying over 2,800 missions against Iranian positions.

Iran may hijack tankers to blockade Iraq, page 2

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Swedish Embassy in Amman and the Swedish Community in Jordan deeply mourn the death of Prime Minister Olof Palme. On this sad occasion a condolences book will be open at the premises of the Embassy, Shmoleani, from Sunday 2nd March until Tuesday 4th March from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ingemar Stjernberg
Ambassador of Sweden

2 Home - Middle East news

Egyptian army credited for disciplined response to riots

CAIRO (R) — Riots by conscript policemen this week may have marred Egypt's image abroad, but a plus in the affair has been the disciplined performance of the army, foreign observers said.

Its role in containing the most serious unrest since President Hosni Mubarak came to power 4½ years ago appeared likely to boost military morale.

The riots by more than 2,000 men of the 300,000-strong Security Police Force cost Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi his job, but the Defence Minister, Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala emerged unscathed.

Hours after policemen surged out of barracks in the Cairo suburb of Giza, near the Pyramids, army units in full battle gear moved in with U.S.-made M-60 tanks and M-113 armoured personnel carriers to seal off the area.

The M-60s are armed with 105-millimetre cannons, but crews were restrained in use of their devastating fire power.

"This indicates a high level of discipline," a Western diplomat said. "This did a good job of subduing rather than slaughtering the rioters."

Witnesses said army troops

used mainly light machineguns in clashes with the police rioters, who had sophisticated small arms but no heavy weapons.

At one point, however, helicopter fired missiles into a large police camp near Cairo International Airport and helicopter gunships fired machineguns to flush conscripts out of the fashionable Cairo suburb of Maadi according to the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram.

At least 36 people were killed and more than 300 injured in the riots and clashes that followed.

With more than 2,000 police arrested, the 500,000-strong army has now moved temporarily into an internal security role.

Elite troops have been assigned the delicate task of enforcing a curfew in Cairo, where tanks and armoured personnel carriers have been deployed on some main roads.

Special army units are guarding key government buildings and foreign embassies after the

withdrawal of the black-uniformed security police who normally protect them.

Public confidence in the police was a major casualty of this week's mayhem.

Mr. Mubarak told the new interior minister, Police Gen. Zaki Badr, that one of his tasks was to build "an atmosphere of mutual confidence" between police and public.

U.S. praises Mubarak

In Washington U.S. officials Friday expressed concern about rioting that swept through Cairo and other Egyptian towns this week but applauded President Hosni Mubarak's handling of the disturbances.

"He acted quickly and decisively to put this thing down," an official said.

He said the Egyptian government had been remarkably candid with the Egyptian people over the mutiny by security police.

"They have obviously reached a decision to have this all out in public rather than rumormongering around the bazaars in Cairo," the official told Reuters.

He interpreted the gov-

ernment's frankness as a sign of confidence in being able to deal with the trouble, noting that no new incidents had been reported.

The outbreak occurred while U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Veloz was in Washington on a private visit. He is due to return to Cairo on schedule next week.

Egypt is Washington's closest Arab ally. The United States has a current year regular aid programme of more than \$2.1 billion in the current financial year, plus \$500 million in special supplemental aid to support economic reform.

The administration is timing disbursement of the \$150 million remaining of this additional aid to support further reform measures.

It has pointed to reduction of Egypt's balance of payments and budget deficits as one of the priority areas for action.

But officials acknowledge that Mr. Mubarak's task will not be made easier by the wrecking of tourist hotels by rioters, hitting a tourist trade that had been depressed by Middle East violence late last year.

An official said the rioting had resulted in a nasty situation but Mr. Mubarak had handled it as well as could be expected.

Morocco holding triple anniversary celebrations

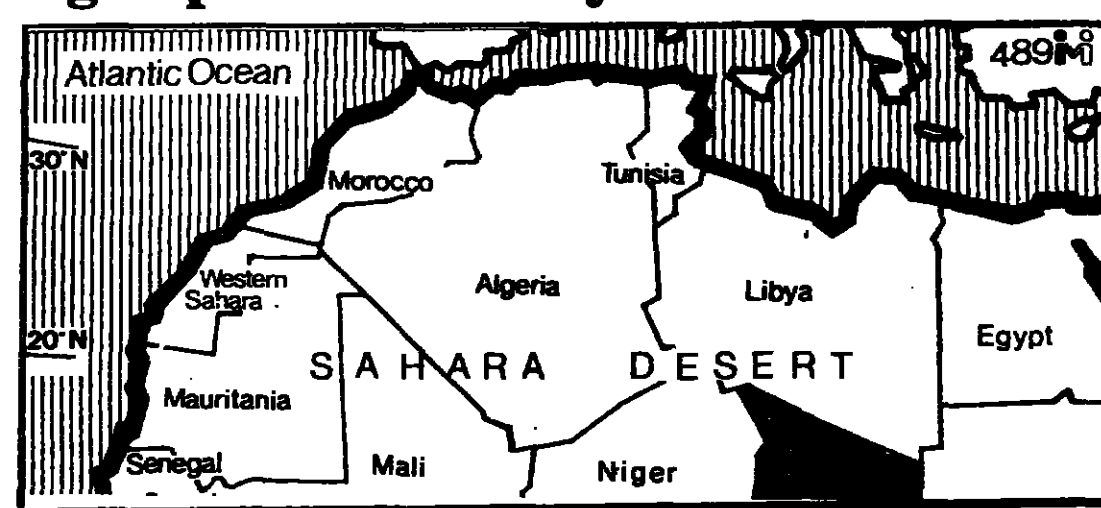
RABAT (R) — Morocco is holding triple anniversary celebrations: 30 years since French and Spanish protectorates ended, 25 years of rule by King Hassan, and 10 years of "renouveau" with the Western Sahara.

The occasion is being celebrated on an unprecedented scale with festivities throughout the country, particularly in the red-walled and palm-fringed city of Marrakesh where the monarch is currently in residence.

Employees have been given a five-day holiday with pay from Feb. 28 to March 4. City buildings have been repainted, flowers planted, flags and lights hung, triumphal arches erected, and numerous stages set for singing and dancing.

Feb. 28 was the day the Spanish flag was hauled down in the Western Sahara 10 years ago. King Hassan had sent 350,000 unarmed people waving copies of the Koran into the territory the previous year, winning from the agreement under which Spain withdrew.

March 3 is the date of King Hassan's formal accession to the throne in 1961 after the death of his father, Mohammed V, the previous monarch.



It was also the date in 1956 when the French protectorate over most of the country ended.

Spain's protectorate in the north ended the next month, and the international zone in Tangier later the same year, but the colonial era saw 12-century-old Morocco carved into eight separate pieces and re-assembling of the country was still incomplete.

Two Atlantic coast enclaves in the south, Tarifa and Ifni, were later handed back by Madrid.

Morocco also claimed the Toubat, Tidikelt and Tindouf oases which had been taken over by French forces in Algeria at the beginning of the century.

The claims led to a brief desert war in 1963 with independent Algeria, and King Hassan eventually agreed to drop his demands.

Since the Western Sahara was "recovered and reunited with the kingdom," according to the official vocabulary, there now remain

only two foreign outposts, the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla on the Mediterranean coast.

King Hassan is dedicated to liberating them also, to make good his popular title "unifier of the kingdom."

But two dark clouds hang over the anniversaries, a military conflict and a financial crisis.

Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas are fighting for control of the Western Sahara where 80,000 Moroccan troops are stationed in the bleak desert that contains large mineral deposits.

And Morocco owes foreign governments and commercial banks over \$13 billion, the equivalent of its gross domestic product in 1984. Finance Minister Abdul Latif Jouahri says a third rescheduling of the debt is an "imperative necessity."

The debt is partly because of the cost of the war with Polisario, estimated by foreign diplomats at

about one million dollars a day.

But economists say it is mainly due to other factors beyond Morocco's control in the last five years — droughts, rocketing U.S. dollar exchange and interest rates, a huge surge in the energy import bill, lower prices and demand for phosphates, the mainstay of the economy.

However the outlook looks promising on most counts. Rain has flooded the country this winter and the best crops in 10 years are expected. The steep dive in the dollar and crude oil prices should also help.

The protectorate regimes imported modern administrative, industrial and farming methods which changed the social fabric from a predominantly tribal one into proletarian, merchant and professional classes.

In the three decades since then the population has doubled to 22 million, including a work force estimated at over six million.

Cholera epidemic growing among Ethiopian refugees

PARIS (R) — A French medical aid agency has said it was sending an emergency mission to Somalia where it feared a cholera epidemic was growing among Ethiopian refugees who have fled to the East African country.

Medecins Sans Frontieres, which was expelled from Ethiopia last December, said tens of thousands of Ethiopians had crossed into north western Somalia in recent weeks adding to some 700,000 refugees already there.

"The number of cases of cholera registered in this population makes us fear that an epidemic is growing at an explosive rate," a statement from the Paris-based private agency said.

It said experts left this week for Somalia to prepare for the arrival of a Hercules C-130 transport plane loaded with 20 tonnes of medicine and health equipment on March 3.

The emergency effort, to be led by nine doctors and nurses, will focus on the area around the Somali town of Hargeisa, near the border with Ethiopia's Ogaden region.

The group said many of the new arrivals had fled to Somalia to escape an Ethiopian government resettlement programme.

Medecins Sans Frontieres was thrown out of Ethiopia after repeatedly criticising the resettlement scheme, which Addis Ababa defends as necessary for long-term famine relief.

No aid for forced resettlement

Conservative members of the European Parliament Friday demanded that Ethiopia should not be given European Community funds that could be used for the forcible resettlement of the population.

Members of the Community's Executive Commission are to visit Ethiopia next month to discuss the use of 230 million ECUs (\$215 million) of aid granted for long-term development projects in Ethiopia.

The money is being given under a trade and aid pact between the EC and 66 Third World countries.

But British Conservative Margaret Day said the 12-nation Community had to be absolutely sure the Ethiopian government was not using funds to make people move from their dry, barren lands to more fertile areas of the country.

"This is a very serious human issue and one on which we should make a very careful study," she said. "Before we give funds to assist with resettlement we have to be certain that we are not contributing to a human tragedy."

A Commission spokesman said member states would be consulted on the use of the money, adding: "Commission funds have never been used for the Ethiopian resettlement programme."

Airport could be factor in Cyprus talks

By Thomas O'Dwyer
Reuters

NICOSIA — A controversial new airport in North Cyprus may become a key factor in talks over future military guarantees for the divided Mediterranean island, according to Western diplomatic and military sources.

The 510 million Gezitale Airport (called Lefkoniko by Greek Cypriots) is due to open in breakaway Turkish Cypriot Northern Cyprus later this month, northern officials say.

It could give Ankara and Turkish Cypriots a way out of a deadlock with Greek Cypriots over future Turkish guarantees for a U.N.-proposed federal republic, a military expert said.

"Within the context of Turkey taking its troops out of Cyprus and needing to bring them back quickly if necessary, the airport certainly has relevance," Col. Jonathan Alford of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) told Reuters.

Col. Alford, an expert on the East Mediterranean, said the idea of the airport was for American use was "not taken seriously."

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, asked in an interview with Reuters this week about the airport's potential bargaining role, said: "This is a logical argument."

When we come to talk about international guarantees (with Greek Cypriots), this can be put on the table and discussed.

"But it doesn't mean the actual presence of guarantor troops on an agreed basis will not be discussed," he said.

Asked if the airport, said by Greek Cypriots to be primarily military and not civilian, was built specifically to allow Ankara to withdraw its estimated 18,000 troops in Cyprus, Mr. Denktaş said: "Frankly no. But it is a factor brought to my notice and is, I think, relevant."

U.N. officials meet Greek and Turkish Cypriots separately in Geneva this week in a new effort to break a deadlock over reuniting Cyprus, divided since Turkey invaded in 1974 after a coup organised by then-ruling military junta in Athens.

NEWS ANALYSIS

A major outstanding problem is Turkish Cypriot insistence on a Turkish militarily-backed guarantee for a federal republic, which Greek Cypriots reject as unacceptable.

Mr. Denktaş aroused Greek Cypriot ire this month when he said Turkey could use Gezitale and a port being built at Kyrenia, 33 kilometres north of Nicosia, "for normal legal purposes."

The Greek Cypriot-run Cyprus government complained to the U.N. Security Council that they were intended for military use, saying: "This is a serious provocation and increases dangers for the security of Cyprus."

Mr. Denktaş said he had been

misconstrued, and Turkey would have the same use of the new port as of existing facilities.

Western diplomats agree Mr. Denktaş's emphasis was missed. "He was signalling the Soviet Union that Turkey alone would use the airport, not America, as they fear."

Speculation has long been rife here that Washington paid for the airport for possible use by its Rapid Deployment Force (RDF), should it need to intervene in any Middle East crisis.

"Cyprus would offer a no more easy option for the RDF than anywhere else in the region," Col. Alford said. "Turkey would still be seen as the controlling influence and the Turks would probably say 'No, we don't want to upset our Arab friends.'"

"In a wider NATO context, Cyprus really has very little strategic relevance in modern terms. Of course it's a divisive factor between Greece and Turkey and NATO might wish someone could tow it away somewhere else," Col. Alford added.

Western diplomats dismissed a report in the Cyprus Mail newspaper last month that Gezitale would be a reconnaissance base for U.S.-made Grumman S-2 submarine-tracking planes.

"Turkey can do that job just as well from its south coast. We have a strong feeling that balloon was floated by a certain embassy in Nicosia which I won't name," one diplomat said.

Iran may hijack tankers to blockade Iraq

By Rory Channing
Reuters

KUWAIT — Iran's threat to blockade oil shipped by Gulf states for Iraq raises the spectre of tanker hijackings against which there are few defences, Gulf-based oil industry sources say.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait produce and sell some 310,000 barrels per day (BPD) of crude for Iraq from the neutral zone bordering the three countries.

"Some countries admit they sell oil for Iraq," Iranian President Ali Khamenei told Tehran Radio this week. "Iraq is at war with us. Everyone will accept that, should we make the decision someday, we can confiscate the oil sold for Iraq."

The sources say the threat poses huge problems not only for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as producers, but for the independent shippers of neutral zone crude, and buyers.

"Iran apparently has it in mind to hijack oil shipments. Ship chancellors won't want to get involved, and buyers will look elsewhere for less problematic contracts," says one.

Iranian gunboats have stopped scores of Gulf-bound cargo ships in and outside the Gulf, reserving a right to confiscate what it considers strategic goods destined for Iraq whose Gulf ports were knocked out early in the 5½-year-old conflict.

Tehran has repeatedly denounced the western Gulf states for giving aid to Iraq. Diplomats say Kuwait alone has given Baghdad an estimated \$10 billion, and Riyadh a lot more.

Both have accused Iran of at-

tacks on their tankers and Saudi fighters in 1984 shot down an Iranian jet in a dogfight over the western Gulf.

Since then however, most air strikes have taken place further down the waterway, east of Qatar, where Iran has met little resistance amid reluctance by the Gulf Arab states to provide sustained air cover for oil shipments.

Iran has tended to intercept cargo freighters in the same part of the Gulf, or just outside it, and shipping sources suspect this may become the arena for any tanker hijack.

NEWS ANALYSIS

They rule out any moves to arm tankers. "Shippers have always been against that. They are not military vessels and the legal implications are huge, not least in insurance," says one.

Tankers already take some precautions in the Gulf, many sailing only at night. On entering or leaving the waterway they hug the western coast as far as possible, keeping to Omani seas while still within some 120 kilometres of the Hormuz Strait.

Even there, the Iranian navy has often challenged tankers owned by the Gulf Arab states, demanding to check their flag, identity and destination. Only by firmly pointing out they were in Omani waters did they deter further harassment, sources say.

While Iran may want to punish other Gulf states, sources say, it would be loathe to provoke Oman, which has powerful military bases on its side of the Hormuz Strait at the mouth of the Gulf through which a sixth of the

Western World's oil, including vital Iranian shipments, pass.

Iraqi "war relief" crude, as it is called, is shipped from Mina Al Saud in the Kuwait-administered part of the neutral zone and Khafji in the Saudi-controlled sector.

Neither are deepwater ports. So chartered tankers pick up loads before proceeding usually to Kuwait's Mina Al Ahmadi or Mina Al Abdullah oil ports, or Saudi's main Gulf port of Ras Tanura, to top up their cargoes, oil industry sources say.

"Should Iran stop these vessels on their way out, they will disrupt shipments, and delivery schedules, not only of oil sold for Iraq, but also Kuwait and Saudi Arabia," says one.

"If the cargo documentation shows any oil came from Mina Al Saud or Khafji, Iran is probably going to divert the tanker to Bushehr (an Iranian port on the eastern Gulf opposite Kuwait), regardless of any other crude it carries," he adds.

The best way round the problem is to falsify documents, the sources say. But if Iran, unable to find any "war relief" oil, should realise this is happening, it could extend the blockade to all crude shipped by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia down the Gulf.

Saudi Arabia, which in recent months is estimated by oil industry sources to have produced close to or above 4.5 million BPD, could move much of its crude via a pipeline to the Red Sea port of Yanbu. But Kuwait, said to be producing 1.2 million BPD, is totally reliant on shipments down the waterway.

VERY SOON
FISH HOUSE
Restaurant
Take Away
Jabal Amman 6th Circle
Tel: 815899

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

MAIN CHANNEL

16:00 Koran
16:30 Cartoons
16:45 Children's Programme
17:00 Survival
17:45 Local Programme on Agriculture
18:00 Arabic Series
19:30 News Programme on Jordan
20:00 News in Arabic
20:35 Arabic programme on Al Aqsa Mosque
21:00 Tomorrow's programmes
21:45 Local Varieties Programme
22:00 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 Programme Cont.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 Destination Zenith
19:00 News in French
19:15 French Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Insight
20:00 The Cabbage Patch
21:00 End of Empire
22:00 News in English
22:30 Best Seller: Love and Larceny
Part 2

RADIO JORDAN
815 KHz AM & 99 MHz FM
& partly on 95.60 KHz SW
Tel: 77411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News
08:00 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
10:00 Pop Session
11:00 News
12:00 Pop Session Cont.
13:00 News Summary
13:45 Pop Session Cont.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:15 Science Report
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Listeners' Choice
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Jazz Hour
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Dance with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary

21:45 Evening Show Cont.
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show Cont.
22:40 News Summary
23:57 News Headline
24:00 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Jazz from Europe
06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:40 24 Hours: News Summary 07:50 Flinders and Swann 07:45 Letter from America
08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Jazz for the Auking 08:40 World News 08:50 24 Hours: News Summary 09:20 From Our Own Correspondent 09:30 Worldwide 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 The Pleasure's Yours 11:00 World News 11:05 Britain Press Review 11:15 Science in Action 11:45 In Holy Contemplation 12:00 News Summary/Short Story 12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World News 13:05 News About Britain 13:15 From Our Own Correspondent 13:30 Baker's Half Dozen 14:00 News Summary: Play of the Week 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Sports Round Up 15:40 The Sound of Music 16:00 News Summary 16:30 Pride and Prejudice 17:00 News Summary 17:15 International Record 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 Faces 18:25 Journey Through Heaven 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:05 Reflections 19:15 The Middle Ages 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Hitville USA 21:00 News Summary: Classical Record Review 21:15 The Star Wars History 21:40 World News 22:00 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sunday Half Hour 23:00 News Summary: Short Story 23:15 The Pleasure's Yours 24:00 World News 24:05 Reflections 06:45 Sports Round-up 06:50 World News 07:00 Commentary 07:15 Letter from America 07:30 The Middle Ages

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260, KHz 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 & 15210

06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 06:30 News Summary VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Pop 07:30 News Summary VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Hassan Agba at the Gallery of the Housing Bank complex (until March 6)

* An art exhibition by Sa'id Nuseibeh at the Jordan National Gallery (until March 2)

* An exhibition of selected works by Jordanian and Foreign Contemporary artists at the Ala Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, First Circle (until March 11)

* Engineering book exhibition and aviation exhibition at Yarmouk University.

BREAKDANCING

* The magnificent force, a six-member breakdancing group, will perform at the Palace of Culture at 7:00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday.

LECTURE

* Dr. Hans-Rimbert Hemmer from the University of Giessen will give a lecture on: "Possibilities and limits of a new world economy system to promote development" at 6:00 p.m. today at the Amman Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Goethe Institute.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 643711
American Centre Library 641520
British Council 6361478
French Cultural Centre 637009
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 644323
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Hassan Youth City 6671816
V.W.C.A. 641793
J.W.C.A. 642451
Yarmouk Municipal Library 637111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Palatine Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaic from Madaba and Zesteh (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Circled Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Friday and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munazzah, Jabal Leventeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630122.
Margaret Museum (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Palatine Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Leventeh, 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hinnin, 661757.
Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 678906.
American Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.
St. Epiphane Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.

PRAYER TIMES

06:40 Fajr
06:12 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:49 Dhuhr
15:00 'Asr
17:38 Maghrib
18:57 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (06) 7700-3, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

01:30 Bucharest (RO)
02:00 Beirut (LE)
02:30 Kuwait (KU)
03:30 Dubai (AE)
04:00 Jeddah (SA)
04:45 Agaba (RU)
05:00 Doha, Bahrain (BV)
05:45 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
13:00 Istanbul (TK)
13:45 Tripoli, Lebanon (LN)
15:00 Baghdad (IA)
17:30 Cairo (EG)
17:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:55 Athens (GR)
18:00 Paris, Brussels (AF)
18:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:00 London (RJ)
18:00 Rome (RJ)
18:05 Athens, Damascus (GA)
18:30 Frankfurt (FR)
20:30 Frankfurt (LH)
20:30 London (BA)
09:25 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

03:30 Bucharest (RO)
04:00 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
04:30 Agaba (RU)

Assad outlines ministry's plans for higher education

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More Jordanian students can hope to enroll for higher education courses in Jordan, rather than studying abroad, following a decision approved in principle by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Details on how, where and when an increase in the number of higher education seats will be achieved were not disclosed by Minister of Higher Education Nasreddine Al Assad who announced the proposed decision during a press conference on Saturday.

Neither did the minister elaborate on the means to expand university education in Jordan. "In principle, the ministry has agreed to expand higher education in Jordan by increasing the number of local university seats," Dr. Assad said and indicated that the form of expansion might be through increasing the number of seats at the three government-owned universities or by establishing a fourth private or public owned university.

"I shall announce the form of higher education expansion in late April or early May after all proposed ideas have been thoroughly studied," said Dr. Assad, who gave his first press conference since the ministry was established on April 4, 1985 following a cabinet reshuffle.

The ministry is in charge of implementing the government's educational, cultural and scientific policies in all spheres related to higher education. Prior to its inception, the government's higher educational policies were carried out through the Ministry of Education and a Higher Education Council, which was chaired by Dr. Abdallah Al Zarbi.

After the ministry was established, the Prime Ministry also ordered the launching of a higher ministerial committee for higher education whose role is to assist the government in carrying out and formulating higher educational policies in Jordan.

Dr. Assad, who was explaining the reasons which led the ministry to agree in principle on the expansion of higher education in Jordan, said they came in light of the various socio-economic changes and their respective educational needs. According to Dr. Assad, the factors which prompted the ministry to approve this decision were as follows:

— A rapid increase in the population and number of secondary students.

— Recommendations made by Jordanian expatriates living abroad who preferred that their children be educated in Jordanian universities.

— The large number of students studying abroad, many of whom left Jordan because of the limited university seats and because admission requirements for Jordanian universities stipulate high scholastic general averages.

— A need to raise the educational qualifications of teachers teaching in public elementary schools. The majority of these teachers have a two-year college diploma.

— Requests made by some ministries for their need for more qualified personnel.

— To help the country's economy since the annual amount of money spent on the education of Jordanian students abroad is estimated at JD 75 million, apart from the political, intellectual, psychological and social values

which face Jordanian students who study abroad.

"All these factors were seriously taken into consideration before the ministry approved its decision on the need to expand higher education in Jordan," Dr. Assad said.

"The expansion plan will be based on addressing the community's needs in various specialisations and we shall also advise university students in which fields to specialise in order not to face any future complications, such as unemployment or an imbalance in the labour market's structure and needs," Dr. Assad continued.

However, any expansion in higher education should not be made at the expense of educational quality," the minister said, adding that there will be strict supervision on the issue.

Dr. Assad, who also referred to the 52 local community colleges in which an estimated 27,966 students are registered for the 1985/1986 academic programme, said that the ministry has decided to establish links between these colleges and the Jordanian universities by allowing community college students to transfer to other higher education institutions. Prior to this decision, community college students who completed their two year programmes were not allowed to register at Jordanian universities. However, they were allowed to pursue their university education abroad.

"We have come to a decision that the curricula in these colleges should be unified in order to have a set academic background for all students who wish to continue their university education," he said, denying that there will be separate programmes for community college students who want to pursue their higher education and those who do not.

The minister explained the benefits of this new decision saying that "competition among community college students to enter universities will improve their educational standards, especially since a lot of complaints have been aired about the weak educational qualities of these students." It will also keep the door open for all college students who want to continue their higher education and will eventually reflect on positively the country's development, he continued.

He indicated that the ministry has also drafted new amendments to the community colleges' comprehensive exam. The former law stipulated that the Ministry of Education will carry out this comprehensive exam at the end of the two-year college education in order to assess students' academic capabilities and award them diplomas.

Under the former law, community college students had to pass their examinations which were based on four papers; the college's requirements, the major courses, the minor courses and the major's electives. If the student failed in any of these four areas, he had to sit again for the comprehensive examination.

Under the new arrangements, a student is given a period of two years to sit for the examination provided that in the first year he takes two out of the four examinations. If a student fails in one of the four exams, he can sit for the same subject instead of having to take the whole exam as under the earlier law.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, accompanied by senior officials, Saturday sees off a Jordanian medical team and plenipotentiary for drought and famine victims in Sudan (Petra photo)

Atallah announces JD 1.114 million plan for tourism projects this year

By Lima Nabli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Tourism will this year carry out projects designed to promote tourism and it has allocated JD 1.114 million for the scheme.

Tourism Authority Director General Nasri Atallah announced here Saturday.

Mr. Atallah, speaking at a press conference to outline the ministry's plans during 1986, said that the projects will include the construction of a 150-room hotel near the Dead Sea, introducing improvements to the Wadi Rum desert regions and establishing another resthouse at the Jordan Valley and another at the Nabatean City of Petra.

The ministry's plans also entail setting up a number of tourist resthouses near archaeological areas in Jordan, opening a school in Madaba, to train people in traditional handicrafts.

Mr. Atallah added that the Ministry of Tourism will introduce a horse and carriage service in Petra, probably in the coming month.

At present, tourists visiting the city travel on foot or on horseback into the city.

Mr. Atallah urged the private sector to back tourist projects carried out by the government and also to offer facilities to promote both domestic and international tourism.

He said that the Ministry of Tourism will ask the government to open tourist offices in a number of countries to help market Jordanian tourist and archaeological sites.

Mr. Atallah referred to an experiment for marketing Jordan's tourist sites abroad in cooperation with British Airways (BA) and described it as "very successful."

At present BA operates four weekly trips between Amman and London, two during the day and two at night, but arrangements will be made to carry tourists directly to Aqaba soon after arriving in Amman during the winter season, Mr. Atallah added.

In the coming two months, the ministry will conclude contracts with Air France, KLM and Lufthansa to carry out similar projects, Mr. Atallah added.

He said that the ministry recently dispatched tourist delegations to three British cities where they held talks with tourist agencies and discussed cooperation.

Further talks on cooperation with BA are being conducted through Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, which also helps to transport tourists from London to Amman, Mr. Atallah added.

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Prince Hassan calls on IMF to extend financial help to drought, famine victims in Sudan

Jordan sends medical team, more supplies to Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has issued an appeal to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to extend financial assistance to the victims of drought and famine in Sudan and not to succumb to pressure for withholding aid.

The Crown Prince was speaking whilst seeing off another Jordanian medical team which left for Sudan Saturday. Prince Hassan said that a meeting of governors of Islamic banks, held in Jeddah a few weeks ago, discussed the subject of Sudan. The meeting issued an appeal to Arab and Islamic countries asking them to consider the situation in the light of the drought and famine which have hit Sudan and Somalia, causing a great deal of suffering to the two African nations.

Further discussions of the subject will be made during another governors' meeting to be held in Amman during March, Prince Hassan said.

He outlined the tasks of a Jordanian medical and relief team now offering help to drought victims in Sudan and the Crown Prince added that Jordanian teams will shortly be involved in helping to drill water wells, cleaning oth-

ers and installing water and electricity networks in different stricken regions to help the people of Sudan.

The coming stage should see the rehabilitation of the stricken region and this will extend for a period of three years, but it will certainly require IMF contributions for it to succeed, Prince Hassan pointed out.

He said that the continuing drop in oil prices was a major reason for a noticeable decrease in contributions to drought and famine regions of Africa on the part of various states, including Arab countries. Prince Hassan said that the re-building of Sudan was bound to be a difficult mission unless financial aid was extended to the country to enable it to overcome its current economic crisis.

The Jordanian medical team, which has just left, will spend two

months in Sudan helping another resident team in offering aid to the drought victims. Also, another team of Jordanian engineers will be sent to make plans for rehabilitation projects which the National Jordanian Committee for Solidarity with Sudan intends to carry out. This plan entails laying water pipes and electricity cables and building health centres and an agricultural school. The plane carried large quantities of medicines for the Jordanian field hospital, to be forwarded to areas in east Sudan, in addition to food supplies, clothing and other relief requirements.

Field hospital

A Jordanian field hospital in Sudan has 40 beds and offers treatment to nearly 800 patients a day, giving vaccines and carrying out 65 surgical operations a month, according to the health minister. The medical team was seen off at the airport by Health Minister Zaid Hamzah, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi and Dr. Anwar Bilbisi, secretary general of the Jordan Medical Council.

Official returns from tourism, supply talks in Damascus

RAMTHA (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Supply Abdulhadi Al Hawamdeh returned to Amman Saturday via Ramtha following a five-day visit to Damascus where he held talks with Syrian officials on Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in tourism and supply affairs.

Mr. Hawamdeh said in a statement that during the visit he signed documents for the purchase of five production lines for automated bakeries which would be set up in Jordan.

The first line will be installed in Irbid within five months, and the other lines will be installed at different areas to be selected by the Ministry of Supply which is conducting the deal, Mr. Hawamdeh added. He said that the other four lines will be installed three months after the first one has been tried out.

During the visit, Mr. Hawamdeh said that he discussed with Mr. Ahmad Al Dabbas, Syria's assistant minister of supply and internal trade, Syrian supply activities and that he explored the possibility of benefiting from Syria's experience and expertise in the classification and pricing of various commodities.

At a meeting with Mr. Issam Al Amri, Syrian assistant minister of tourism, Mr. Hawamdeh reviewed scopes of cooperation in tourism affairs between Jordan and Syria, focusing on prospects for joint marketing of tourist and archaeological sites, introducing new facilities for tourism and involving the private sector in both countries in promoting tourism.

He also looked into the possibility of benefiting from Syria's system of pricing and classifying hotels and restaurants.

ACDIMA establishes pan-Arab company for veterinary products

AMMAN (Petra) — A new pan-Arab company, to be called the Arab Company for Veterinary Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA) came into being Saturday with the signing of documents for its establishment at the headquarters of the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA).

The new company will have a \$12 million capital divided into 120,000 shares each worth \$100, according to an official announcement that followed the signing of the documents. So far, \$10.4 million of the capital have been paid up, according to Dr. Muwaffaq Haddadin, the ACDIMA director general.

He said the new company will undertake the task of conducting scientific, technical, industrial and commercial business connected with the manufacture of veterinary drugs and appliances. It will also conduct research designed to develop and improve the existing industries and produce

new appliances to cope with the continuous advancement in this field, and will also train staff and personnel to be employed by the company, he continued.

ACDIMA will also help in the construction of other companies or firms in various Arab countries or abroad that will help promote the company's activities and programmes, Dr. Haddadin added.

He said that ACDIMA will be based in Amman and its city supervised by ACDIMA, but that the company's board can open branches and offices in London and abroad.

Only Arab personnel, governments and companies can acquire shares in the new company which, according to Dr. Haddadin, would be expected to make annual profits totalling 17.4 per cent. He said that the establishment of the ACDIMA was approved by the mother company, following a feasibility study indicating that the company was bound to be successful.

The conference also stressed the importance of developing trade among Arab countries and called for the endorsement of a unified Arab financial system in order to protect Arab money invested in foreign countries, he said.

Mr. Tab'a also said that the conference recommended that future industrial and commercial projects in the Arab World should be selected and approved according to feasibility studies.

The conference also recommended the development and improvement of Arab products, cooperation among Arab countries to face the increasing danger of food insufficiency.

Tubingen to host third international conference on Jordan's archaeology

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The study of Jordan's ancient trade and external relations will be enhanced substantially by the holding next month of the Third International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan, at the University of Tubingen in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The conference, to be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, is the third of a planned series of conferences, each to be held triennially. This year the University of Tubingen will host the conference and organise its activities, in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Jordan Department of Antiquities.

The conference, which will meet from April 6-12, Director General of Antiquities Adnan Hadidi told the Jordan Times, aims "to bring together scholars of international repute whose work reflects, in diverse ways, the history of Jordan's trade and external relations from earliest prehistoric times to the Ottoman period."

"The entire conference series was Prince Hassan's idea," he added. "He suggested it, has followed up his suggestion in having the conferences set up, and has acted as patron for them."

Working papers

The provisional programme of the conference shows that a substantial gathering of scholars of repute has been organised. Thirty-five main papers will be delivered in five sessions, beginning with prehistory and proceeding chronologically to the Late Islamic period.

Each session will be chaired by one or two well-known experts on the topic. For example, the chairman of the session on the Bronze and Iron Ages are Professor Peter Parf of the University of London and Professor Henk Franken of the University of Leiden, and the Late Islamic Mr. Ra'ouf Abu Jabbar of the Friends of Archaeology in Jordan.

There are also 22 short reports," Dr. Hadidi said, "which will be presented by directors of archaeological surveys and excavations currently in progress in Jordan, during only half a day at the end of the conference. But

these will be published in the forthcoming third volume of Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan, which will be published as usual by the Department of Antiquities."

The conference attempts to cover all aspects of the ramifications of trade in Jordan, and of its external relations, including its cultural relationships with other countries.

"The major point of having the present title for the theme of this conference," Dr. Hadidi said, "is to take Jordan out of a secondary provincial role and place it correctly as a vital area in the Middle East throughout history; this is best done through a study of the ramifications of trade and external relations."

He added: "economics is the basis for any civilisation, and trade routes are an essential concomitant to politics. It should not be forgotten that trade is both a cultural and an economic factor."

A number of exhibitions will be on display at Tubingen during the days of the conference. These include: "Clay, Source of Life, 7000 years of the History of Pottery in Jordan."

Shocked world leaders mourn Palme

(Continued from page 1)

Palme's contribution to international peace and cooperation would be his "lasting legacy."

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl called the murder a "cowardly ambush" while President Richard von Weizsäcker said Mr. Palme's life was a beacon for peace, justice and freedom.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth sent King Gustav a message expressing shock and sympathy with Mr. Palme's family and the Swedish people.

In Britain, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher also praised Mr. Palme for his work in helping developing countries, while opposition leader Neil Kinnock said Mr. Palme was irreplaceable, adding "the world should weep for his death."

Echoing these sentiments, outgoing Portuguese President General Antonio Ramalho Eanes said Mr. Palme's assassination was a serious loss for the world, Europe and particularly Portugal.

Both Austria and Italy condemned the shooting as a senseless and abhorrent crime. Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said it had deprived the world of a man who searched for greater trust and understanding among peoples and nations.

In Tokyo, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone expressed his deep regret, praising Mr. Palme's efforts for peace and disarmament.

Pope John Paul condemned the assassination as an act of senseless violence.

In a telegram to King Gustav, the pontiff also said he prayed that God would persuade men and women to renounce acts of hatred and work together to establish fraternal harmony and peace.

Sweden's Nordic neighbours were stunned by the murder. "Such a shocking act of violence will cast dark shadows for a long time," Norway's Prime Minister Kaare Willoch said.

In Copenhagen, Prime Minister Poul Schluter said he was "deeply moved and utterly paralysed," adding "it is so meaningless and tragic."

Finland Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa said Mr. Palme was the international community's peace fighter and conscience. "Justice and equality in the world were Mr. Palme's working principles. They are his heritage to us and they shall live."

In a heartfelt tribute, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu said Sweden had lost a "great and noble man." "Gentle, kind, courageous, idealistic, Olof Palme was a symbol of all that is decent in the world."

Both Australia and Canada expressed regret that such a tragedy should strike Sweden, a country which Prime Minister Bob Hawke said had contributed so much to humane endeavours both at home and abroad.

Brian Mulroney said Canadians

had been struck by the "brutal blow to a man in the prime of life who was denied the dignity of a death detached from violence."

Kenya said Mr. Palme's death had deprived Africa of a "great champion" of its causes, especially of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. "Africa will greatly miss him," a Kenyan Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Iran sent condolences to Sweden on the death of Mr. Palme, a respected mediator between warring Iran and Iraq.

Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi called his deep sympathy to Mr. Palme's replacement, Ingvar Carlsson, the national news agency IRNA said. He condemned the assassination, saying it went against Islam's moral and ethical principles.

In Wellington, New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange said he was appalled and deeply shocked at the news of Mr. Palme's assassination.

"Mr. Palme became widely respected throughout Europe and the world during his long period of service as the prime minister of Sweden," Mr. Lange said.

In Singapore, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew expressed to Mr. Palme his "deepest condolences... at this grievous loss to the government and people of Sweden."

In the Uruguayan resort of Punta del Este, eight Latin American foreign ministers expressed "surprise, shock and grief" at the news of the assassination.

Police hunt Palme's assassin

(Continued from page 1)

Meins was charged with membership in a criminal organisation and attempted murder. He died in a West German prison at Wirtlich on Nov. 9, 1974, after a hunger strike lasting nearly two months.

Virtually the whole of Sweden's police force hunted Saturday for the gunman following the slaying last Friday.

A Swedish man thought to fit the description of the assailant was released without charges after being detained for questioning.

The Social Democratic Party quickly moved to fill the gap caused by the murder, choosing acting Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, 51, as Mr. Palme's successor both as party chairman and prime minister.

Announcing the decision, Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, his voice shaking with emotion, said Mr. Carlsson was the committee's unanimous choice to succeed Mr. Palme.

Mr. Palme's funeral was provisionally fixed for March 15.

Mr. Palme's widow told police she thought the assassin resembled a man she had met somewhere, but she could not place his face, the Swedish news agency Tidningsarnas Telegrambyrå reported.

Police investigators told Reuters that Mrs. Palme had told them she thought the man resembled someone who had been hanging around the family's flat in the capital's old town.

"She has noticed a man in that area of the town before and she thinks he resembles the assassin. She is not sure, however, whether the assassin and the man she saw near the flat are one and the same person," Inspector Nils Linder said.

Mr. Palme, who had gone out without a police escort as was frequently his custom, was shot in the chest and declared dead at 2306 GMT Friday night, shortly after being rushed to hospital.

Taxi driver Anders Delsborn, the first man to raise the alert after the shooting, said he was sure the Palmes must have seen the murderer before he opened fire at close range.

"No one could believe it was the prime minister until his wife told the police 'I am Lisbet Palme and this is my husband Olof Palme'," Delsborn said in a television interview.

Taxi driver Delsborn, 27, told Swedish Radio he had stopped at traffic lights on a city-centre street when he noticed three people standing on the pavement on his left.

"Whether they were talking or not, I don't know," Mr. Delsborn said. "When I got the green light to go, I heard the first shot."

"I turned around and saw the second shot coming. The person in question fell and the man who fired turned and ran off towards the alleyway. I picked up my radio microphone and put out an alarm for the police and an ambulance."

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PUBLISHED DAILY
EXCEPT ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
BY THE JORDAN TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD.
JORDAN TIMES BUILDING, 100, AL RA'Y STREET, AMMAN, JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 555555, 555555, 555555
FAX: 555555, 555555, 555555
Cable: JORDTIMES, Amman, Jordan
Subscription rates: JORD 100, JORD 100, JORD 100
The Jordan Times is published daily except on Sundays and public holidays.
The Jordan Times is published daily except on Sundays and public holidays.
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A laboured old tune

ISRAELI Prime Minister Shimon Peres has resumed singing an old, and — if you would, laboured — tune about granting more responsibilities to the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. It seems that every time the Labour government runs out of ideas about how to evade the reality of Palestinian national demands, it falls back on this tired old stand-by. This is a particularly attractive tune to American ears, of course, for in the halls of power in Washington it is automatically Good and Kind for Brave Little Democracies to grant incremental doses of human and political rights to indigenous populations of the Oriental, Asiatic or Banana-exporting bent.

The fact that the senior Labour leader in Israel should be able to come up with nothing more substantial than this hackneyed old non-policy is disappointing, but perhaps not surprising. What is perhaps less disappointing, however, is the news from Israel that the latest public opinion poll shows the Labour Party winning 55 seats should a parliamentary election be held this week, against 30 seats for the Likud bloc. We say this is less disappointing because some of us around here still entertain the possibility that a Labour-led Israeli government may be more amenable to starting meaningful negotiations designed to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully and to the satisfaction of all concerned. The fact that Labour would win 55 seats in parliament, while the popularity of the Likud and the Meir Kahane Gang is declining, should bring sentiments of hope to Arab hearts. Or should it? Or are we simply being irrevocably and professionally naive? How, then, should we read the political signals from within Israel?

The Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied territories will have to decide on their own whether they wish to go along with Mr. Peres' ideas of turning over to them more control of their daily lives. After all, it is their lives that are involved. We think this is, in the end, a secondary issue. Whatever the power elites of Washington and Israel may think, we think it cannot detract from the basic fact that real peace will only come to the land of Palestine when Israel withdraws from the occupied territories and the Palestinians enjoy all their human and political rights, notably the right to self-determination. By whitewashing the old tune of allowing the Palestinians more control over their own lives, Mr. Peres simply puts off the day when he has to deal with the reality and the justice of what the Palestinians demand.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arab solidarity

A number of important points were underlined in King Hussein's statement published by Al Siyassah Kuwaiti daily on Saturday. King Hussein said that he will shortly make a tour of Arab capitals to contribute to the re-building of national solidarity. The King opted for this tour in view of the fact that the Arabs seem not yet ready for a summit meeting, and also to make fresh efforts for averting further setbacks for this nation. King Hussein also denied all reports about a rumoured secret Jordanian-Israeli meeting and said there can be no negotiations with Israel except through an international conference. Furthermore, the King referred to the great pains and hardships which Jordan went through during the negotiations with the PLO leadership and said that as we lost time the enemies were gaining it and tightening their grip on our land. In his statement, he said that the Palestinians are now facing two options: to follow the same old course and face all its consequences or make a re-assessment of their position and the situation in the occupied Arab territory. In this statement the King has again placed the whole matter in the hands of the Palestinian people and urged them to take action before it is too late.

Al Dustour: The Arab army

JORDAN Saturday observes the 30th anniversary of the arabisation of its armed forces, when King Hussein removed the foreign army officers and handed the leadership to Arab officers. The event was a turning point in Jordan's history and a significant step for Jordanians who realise the immense challenges they face and also the great importance of the King's wise decision. Thirty years have passed since then, and Jordanians look back with pride to the many achievements they realised in their country under King Hussein's leadership and the great progress Jordan has achieved by following the path of the Great Arab Revolt and its principles. King Hussein has always given great attention to the development of the armed forces, and over the past three decades he enhanced their capabilities and provided them with up to date weapons with which to liberate the occupied Arab land and defend the nation. King Hussein's step 30 years ago marked a beginning of the great march forward, and served as a beacon to light the nation's way.

Sawt Al Shaab: Palestinians' responsibility

KING Hussein gave a statement to Al Siyassah Kuwaiti daily in which he emphasised the basic principles of the Jordanian policy towards various Arab issues in general and the Palestine question in particular. In the statement, the King pointed to the fact that Jordan was making every possible effort to regain Arab land and said that Jordan will not act as a substitute for the Palestinians but will help in the process of regaining the usurped territory. He stressed the need for not losing any more opportunities which present themselves now, and which offer the Arabs and the Palestinians a choice to get back their lands and rights. King Hussein wanted through his statement to stress to the Arabs that the matter is now left for the Palestinians and their leadership to take the initiative. This leadership, he said, should free itself from all external influences and material temptation and embark on meaningful action to regain Palestinian land.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Surplus expected in 1985 balance of payments

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

MOST world countries have already published their balance of payments for fiscal year 1985. In Jordan however, the latest issue of the Central Bank's "Monthly Statistical Bulletin," only the first quarter of 1985 has been reviewed.

Balance of payments figures for the last three quarters of 1985 are not available yet. The absence of such vital information makes economic policy and decision-making depend heavily on hunch or guesswork, which puts decision makers in a difficult position.

We, of course, can make our own calculations, using the banking sector data and the Central Bank statistics, to predict the most likely result of the balance of payments for 1985, be it surplus or deficit; we can also figure out the size of such result.

The bottom line in any balance of payments is reflected in the net position of the balance of foreign exchange. If the balance of payments is in surplus, that surplus must be reflected in the net foreign exchange position of the banking sector (i.e., an increase in foreign assets or a decrease in foreign liabilities or a combination of both).

On the contrary, the deficit in the balance of payments must give rise to the opposite.

Taking the figures on their face value, as stated in the Central Bank bulletin, suggests an improvement in the net foreign exchange balance by some JD 24.3 million during 1985. In principle, this means that the balance of payments for 1985, when finalised, would reflect a surplus equal to the above figure, plus or minus errors and omissions, which are usually able.

There are however, several issues of principle which should be resolved before we can proceed with our calculations.

Among the issues of principle that may modify the above result is whether or not the facilities extended by the Central Bank to several countries, mainly Iraq, in financing of Jordanian exports, do actually represent a banking asset, or should be classified as capital movement and treated under the investments section of the balance of payments in exactly the same way we are treating external financing of our imports and development projects.

The amount involved, as far as 1985 is concerned, is JD 45 million.

Depending on this point of principle, and overlooking errors and omissions, the bottom line in our balance of payments will range between a surplus of JD 24 million and a deficit of 21 million.

In either case the result is relatively very small, which may mean that the balance of payments was effectively balanced and very close to the break-even point.

This result is much better than was feared a year ago.

Gold and foreign exchange reserves of the country, reached JD 763.8 million on December 31, 1985 an improvement of 6.4 per cent.

But again this figure needs some modifications:

First, the gold owned by the Central Bank is valued at JD 70 million, while it is worth

around JD 130 at current market prices.

Second, the facilities extended by the Central Bank to several countries, to finance Jordanian exports of goods and services, were included. While this matter is debatable, we think that such debts, good as they may be, could not be properly included in the country's foreign exchange reserves. Official reserves should represent assets readily available to pay the commitments of the country.

Third, the offshore transactions of the Jordanian banking system were not excluded. Thus the foreign exchange, held by Jordanian banks on behalf of non-resident depositors was not excluded. Again this is a debatable matter.

However, even if we make all the above three adjustments, the net reduction will not alter the picture substantially.

The fact remains that Jordan needs a healthy reserve, and that the proper policies to protect the reserves from further depletion must be continued relentlessly and given top priority.

Dr. Fahed Fanek won an award for excellence in population reporting, in the Middle East media. Awards will be held April 13-14 in Alexandria, Egypt. Jordan Times received a cable notification of this effect from the International Population Institute. Dr. Fahed earned this award on his weekly column in Jordan Times and daily column in Al Rai.

Will U.S. pay the price for a 'Jack Dempsey' military?

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, taking credit for some U.S. military initiatives begun before he assumed office, appears locked in a losing fight with Congress over his demands for major new defence spending increases.

Despite a poll showing that public support for higher military spending has dropped from 72 per cent to 22 per cent since 1981, Reagan is refusing to back away from his request for a \$320 billion defence budget next year.

Even members of his own Republican Party, who control the Senate, are warning him in a congressional election year that his requested 8.2 per cent rise in military spending is not acceptable in light of efforts to slash record-high U.S. budget deficits.

"The response (by Senate committees) has been very weak. I'm sure the weakest so far," said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici.

Reagan went on television last Wednesday night and asked Americans directly to back a continuation of his five-year, \$1,100 billion military build-up.

Appealing for a powerful U.S. defence, he recalled American humorist Will Rogers' comment about the late world heavyweight boxing champion: "I have never seen anyone insult Jack Dempsey."

Even members of his own Republican Party, who control the Senate, are warning him in a congressional election year that his requested 8.2 per cent rise in military spending is not acceptable in light of efforts to slash record-high U.S. budget deficits.

Democrats and defence experts concede that America has gained respect as a stronger military power since Reagan took office.

But many challenged Reagan's statement that his administration's backing of the Trident submarine and other nuclear programmes "represents the first significant improvements in America's strategic deterrent in 20 years."

Construction of five of America's seven ballistic missile Tridents began before Reagan's inauguration in 1981.

During the Ford and Carter presidencies, accurate air-launched Cruise missiles were developed and minuteman missiles were also improved with better

ter and powerful nuclear warheads.

Reagan said the Soviet Union had major advantages in tanks, artillery, combat aircraft and submarines. But critics said he failed to point out U.S. advantages in aircraft carriers, Cruise missiles, long-range bombers and other weapons.

"The president also did not mention that Moscow's advantage shrank when NATO and Warsaw Pact forces were put into the equation."

"We (the superpowers) have enough weapons to kill each other off eight or 10 times," said House of Representatives Democratic leader Jim Wright, who went on television immediately after Reagan to rebut the president.

"We believe that true national security depends on a lot of things other than just weapons... The deficits themselves pose a danger to our national security," Wright said.

Reagan's proposed \$994 billion 1987 budget sent to Congress earlier this month calls for actual military spending of \$282.2 billion and authorisation to commit a further \$38 billion for future weapons and other programmes.

Congressional budget experts have charged that the Pentagon underestimated its actual spending needs by \$14.7 billion next year and that the U.S. budget deficit could suddenly go above the \$144 billion which members of Congress have targeted for 1987.

Such a deficit might trigger massive, automatic spending cuts across the board under the controversial Gramm-Rudman Deficit Reduction Law now being challenged in court.

On February 7, House Budget Committee Chairman William Gray demanded that Reagan re-submit the budget with correct estimates for military spending. Reagan has not responded.

The Pentagon budget includes a record \$4.8 billion for research on Reagan's proposed anti-missile Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), commonly called "Star Wars," and a four per cent pay increase for military personnel. Requested Star Wars funds are up from \$2.7 billion this year.

The budget also includes a new Trident submarine, 21 MX missiles and 15 new Trident-2 submarine missiles.

It projects military spending over the next five years even higher than the record peacetime build-up during Reagan's first five years in office.

The Pentagon wants defence spending authority to increase to \$332.4 billion in 1988, \$353.5 billion in 1989, \$374.7 billion in 1990 and \$395.5 billion in 1991.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger warned Senate and House committees this month that if current U.S. arms negotiations were to succeed, Washington must persuade Moscow that Reagan's build-up was not a short-term commitment.



Riots: Last thing Egypt needed

By John Rogers
Reuter

CAIRO — The sudden riots that ripped through parts of Cairo and three provincial towns last week were the last thing needed by President Hosni Mubarak, striving to heal a crippled Egyptian economy.

The rampage left at least 36 dead and a trail of destruction, including three tourist hotels wrecked.

It was Mr. Mubarak's biggest crisis in more than four years at the helm and came as his government was trying to nurse Egypt, a leading U.S. ally and the most populous Arab country, to economic health after a series of disruptions.

Hard currency income was dwindling after body-blows to major earners — remittances from Egyptians abroad and tourism. This month a slump developed in world

oil prices which the president estimated could cost Cairo \$700 million this year.

Thus the outlook was already gloomy. Now, the riots will have dented the country's stable image, which Mr. Mubarak strived to preserve, often with difficulty.

The government had hoped tourism was recovering from peak-season vacation cancellations by Americans and West Europeans after Egypt was embroiled in Middle East violence late last year.

Its image suffered when Palestinians hijacked the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro off Alexandria and gunmen commandeered an Egyptian airliner to Malta.

Officials reckoned these setbacks cost Egypt half its projected \$600 million tourism income for the year.

Now hopes have been dashed by rioting and gunbattles on Tue-

nesday night and Wednesday involving rampaging police conscripts and army units sent in to crush the unrest. Three luxury hotels were badly damaged and frightened holiday-makers were evacuated.

"It's not exactly the picture we want to present to customers," a West European tour operator said.

Mr. Mubarak, in a nationwide statement, stressed that foreigners were safe, "saboteurs" responsible for the rioting faced tough punishment and national unity would not be damaged.

He said the violence had been fed by "an atmosphere of agitation," but did not pinpoint who he thought responsible.

The immediate cause was a rumour, which he denied, of a one-year extension of the call-up for security police conscripts.

There was no evidence to back speculation that the attacks on

hotels and nightclubs near the Pyramids were inspired by Islamic fundamentalism which surfaced periodically in Egypt. The hotels and clubs appeared simply to be easy targets near the riotous bars.

Mr. Mubarak, catapulted to power after Mawfien extremists assassinated President Anwar Sadat in October 1981, took a tough line with fundamentalist demonstrations last year.

Poverty appeared a more likely cause for the bitterness which made low-paid conscripts, many of them illiterate country boys, run wild on hearing rumours that they were going to be kept away from the land for another year.

Mr. Mubarak's cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Ali Lotfi, has tried to raise prices gradually without removing subsidies on bread and other staples designed to protect the poor.

Deposed rulers' gains seen hard to dislodge

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Former presidents Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines and Jean-Claude Duvalier of Haiti are believed to have amassed huge fortunes before fleeing into exile this month with U.S. help.

Each left behind nations burdened by massive foreign debts, depleted treasury coffers and bleak poverty.

Each has been accused by political opponents of enriching himself with millions of stolen tax dollars.

Despite a proposed U.S. law that would entitle the Philippines and Haiti to reclaim illegal assets, each stands a strong chance of keeping much of his wealth, according to Western diplomats and financial analysts.

Financial empires hidden by "dummy" corporations, nominal owners and confidential Swiss banks, and diversified over many countries, are difficult to pin down.

Marcos, who fled the Philippines this week, has been offered sanctuary by the United States, which also provided a plane for Duvalier's February 7 flight from Haiti to France.

Marcos's personal fortune, amassed over 20 years of virtual one-man rule, is estimated conservatively at about \$3 billion, according to U.S. intelligence sources.

The Philippines owes \$26 billion to foreign creditors and has only about \$560 million in foreign currency reserves, banking sources say.

Marcos's official annual salary was only about \$49,000 a year. He has said his wealth stems from a lucrative law practice and wise investments.

Congressional investigators, who suspect Marcos may have diverted U.S. aid money to his own pocket, estimate Marcos family properties in New York alone to be worth more than \$350 million.

Duvalier ruled for 16 years over the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. U.S. officials believe he salted away between \$200 million and \$500 million outside Haiti.

The new Haitian government

seized Duvalier assets left behind and said it was studying ways of getting to his assets abroad. The new Philippine government is assessing prospects for "repossessing" Marcos's worldwide holdings.

A law drafted by congressman Stephen Solarz, the New York Democrat who heads an influential Asian affairs subcommittee of the House of Representatives, would allow a foreign government to recover a former leader's assets in the United States if those assets were the result of corrupt dealings.

U.S. legal sources said that if the law were passed it might be difficult to identify all of Marcos's and Duvalier's U.S. holdings and that the measure would have no impact on investments outside the United States.

The prospect of legal wrangling could lead Marcos to opt for exile in another country with no extradition treaty, making it easier for him to deflect law suits. Philippines scholar Richard Kessler of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said.

California congressman George Miller says he asked Attorney-

General Edwin Meese to freeze Marcos assets in the United States. Meese said it was unclear whether Washington had the power to do so.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the freezing of assets had no standing within the Reagan administration.

Philippines expert Martin Lister of the conservative Heritage Foundation, an influential policy research group, said he hoped any financial settlement between Marcos and Manila could be kept private and confidential.

An acrimonious, highly publicised grab for his assets could set a bad precedent, hampering Washington in possible future efforts to effect smooth transitions of power by offering asylum to unpopular rulers, he said.

In the past, Washington has offered sanctuary or aided the flight of such deposed authoritarian rulers as Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi of Iran, and South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu — all accused of looting the public coffers.

In most cases, their overseas fortunes remained undisturbed.

Vigilantes give new twist to South African violence

By Ruth Pitchford
Reuter

NEW CROSSROADS, South Africa — Black vigilante groups have given a new twist to South Africa's township violence, attacking young radicals and militant women in a spin-off conflict stemming from anti-apartheid rioting.

In New Crossroads, near Cape Town, blacks have clashed with blacks over money, authority, the generation gap, the status of the women and relations with whites.

In the local jargon, it's "the mothers" and "the comrades" on one side "the fathers" on the other.

The vigilante groups have sprung up in townships, squatter

camp and rural settlements across the country in the past six months to attack radicals who launch consumer and bus boycotts, rent strikes and school protests.

Radicals suspect the authorities foster the activities of the vigilantes and political analysts say most of them are blacks who owe their jobs to the government or have acquired a modest amount of wealth in their communities.

But civil rights workers acknowledge that the tensions within the black communities are strong and may need no outside encouragement. Police deny they look the other way when the vigilantes are on the rampage.

In New Crossroads, the radical women and youths accuse older men of ruling corruptly over the nearby Crossroads squatter camp.

"We were not willing that they (the Crossroads leaders) should bullshit our mothers," one township youth told Reuters.

New Crossroads is a modern township, built partly because of pressure from women who illegally followed their job-seeking husbands to Cape Town from tribal homelands.

Some traditionally-minded women sided in the recent violence with the Crossroads "fathers." But others joined the local anti-apartheid women's group, "the mothers."

Their children, "the comrades," formed the local anti-apartheid youth group. They say that both organisations are under attack from the older men, who collect money for community funds that

they cannot or will not account for.

The Cape Youth Congress anti-apartheid group admits some of its members may have " antagonised older people by making them eat washing powder or drink fish oil which they were suspected of buying in white-owned shops in defiance of a consumer boycott."

But activists who agreed to be interviewed by Reuters said this has happened rarely and without their sanction.

They say what really sparked the vigilante attacks was the radicals' challenge to the older men's fund-raising activities and to their attempts to extend their rule to New Crossroads.

The fathers spent Christmas

ced to go out and attack youths and women, the congress says. "My father was woken up by the men," said one youth.

"He did not want to go because he knew he was going to fight against me. When he refused, he was forced at spear point to go and fight."

Those identified as fathers declined to discuss the issue with Reuters, saying it was a private matter. But one commented "When our children get out of line, we discipline them. Our youth are right up-to-date now."

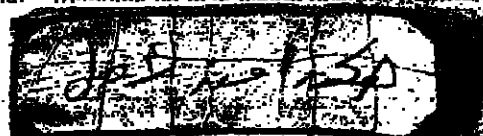
Johannesburg civil rights lawyer Fink Hayson is collecting affidavits from around the country, alleging that police turn a blind eye to vigilante violence.

countrywide in vigilante violence in the past six months — far fewer than those killed by radicals as collaborators with apartheid rule or those killed in clashes with police.

But Hayson and other civil rights workers monitoring the vigilante violence have little hope that it will fade away.

They are worried about government moves to allow township councils — regarded as instruments of apartheid by the radicals — to set up their own system of community guards.

A spokeswoman for the Transvaal Rural Action Committee told Reuters: "Unfortunately, I think vigilante action will continue on an informal basis while a lot of these groups will become for-



Researchers close in on genetic factors in antisocial behaviour

By Jerry E. Bishop

NEW YORK — It was the sort of case the researchers kept running across: a man who had been reared in a middle-class family and was employed, yet who had turned unprovoked to crime — to theft, fraud, destruction of property and perjury.

He also was an adoptee, and when the researchers looked further into his background, what they found was striking. Unknown to either the subject or his adoptive parents, both of his biological parents had criminal records, too. His mother had been convicted of theft and his father of assault.

Could he have inherited a gene that made him criminal? No, not at all, the researchers say. That isn't how genes work. But some sort of predisposition, a vulnerability in certain situations? On this, the researchers have their suspicions, and they are looking further.

They are working in a project called the Stockholm Adoption Study, a long-running effort involving both Swedish and American scientists. Taking advantage of Sweden's extensive health, work and court records on its citizens, the team is exploring the lives of nearly 1,800 people adopted early in childhood and comparing their lives with those of both sets of parents, adoptive and biological.

Nature or nurture?

The study is one of dozens like it under way around the world, mostly focusing on subjects who were adopted or have identical twins. These are scientists tackling one of the least understood, and most controversial, aspects of genetics, the attempt to determine how much of human antisocial behaviour and mental distress involves an inherited tendency. Until recently, most such "nature vs. nurture" debate has necessarily relied heavily on speculation, intuition and emotion. Now it is becoming possible to apply some rigorous measurements to aspects of the controversy.

Computers and new statistical methods give population geneticists the ability to sort through large groups of people and pluck out traits that seem to follow patterns of inheritance. In the laboratory, molecular biologists are honing DNA tests that can pinpoint any gene or genetic defect involved, as well as offer a test for who carries it.

The scientists aren't looking for genes that cause anyone to become an alcoholic, a schizophrenic or a depressive. The function of the thousands of genes inside every cell is merely to dictate the body's production of proteins, the chemicals that maintain and reproduce life. Only in certain relatively rare diseases does a gene or genetic malfunction lead inevitably to a mental or physical defect, such as hemophilia or muscular dystrophy.

Potential benefits

What the researchers are looking for and finding, they believe — are predispositions, involving genes that might be innocuous until the carrier is thrust into a particular environment. At a certain stage of the research, the result could be a powerful tool of preventive medicine.

Treatment, too, could benefit. A psychiatrist who knew that a given case of depression or schizophrenia was related to genetics might favour drug treatment over psychotherapy, for instance.

But the promise goes beyond this, says C. Robert Cloninger, a member of the Stockholm study who is a psychiatrist and population geneticist at Washington University in St. Louis. "If we find a gene that increases the risk of alcoholism, manic-depression or whatever," he says, "then we'll find what protein that gene codes for. If we then find out what the protein does, we can understand

the basic mechanism of the disease. And if we understand the basic mechanism then we can develop new treatments."

Dr. Cloninger has already collected blood cells from a group of alcoholics and their relatives, preparatory to doing the molecular work of identifying genes that might be involved.

But if the potential benefits of such technology are large, so are the dangers. There is the spectre of labeling and discrimination, by employers, by insurers, by the legal system and even by friends. A few years ago, when it was discovered that a higher-than-expected number of prisoners carried an extra sex chromosome, proposals were made to monitor children with the abnormality. The idea was dropped after critics objected that such children might become tagged as potential criminals and that the label alone might cause them to be treated in a way that would turn them toward criminality.

In the current research, Dr. Motulsky says, "I don't think there's an immediate worry about such scenarios," because the science isn't yet advanced enough. But it soon will be, he adds, and "society should begin thinking about such abuses so we can avoid them."

As yet, no gene has been found underlying a specific "misbehaviour" or mental disorder. One big problem is the vagueness of psychiatric categories. A diagnosis of, say, depression or "panic disorder" may be a catchall for a set of symptoms that could stem from any of several factors, only some of which might have a genetic element. Conversely, different people may "express" a given genetic abnormality in different ways, depending on their environment.

Such ambiguity is one reason it is hard to spot family behaviour patterns that might betray the presence of a culprit gene. Another problem, one that complicates nature-vs.-nurture speculation, is

that families ordinarily share the same social, ethnic and cultural environment. But efforts like the Stockholm Adoption Study are overcoming such barriers.

"Sweden is a marvelous laboratory," says Dr. Cloninger, who has been working on the study for 10 years with Michael Bohman and colleagues at Umea University medical school in Sweden. Both poverty and extreme wealth are almost nonexistent in Sweden, and the people are mostly of the same ethnic background. So any genetic effects stand out more clearly than in a place like the U.S.

Then there are the records. The socialised Swedes have for several decades recorded workers' hospital stays and sick leaves. Temperance boards keep track of alcohol abuse. The government has been particularly meticulous in monitoring the welfare of illegitimate children. It has placed for adoption in the first months of their lives. The Stockholm researchers have been given access to the carefully guarded records of 1,775 adopted men and women born between 1930 and 1949, along with records of both the biological and the adoptive parents.

Types of alcoholism

The researchers have found some interesting patterns in checking for alcohol abuse. Of the 1,775 adoptees, this has been a problem for slightly more than 300, two-thirds of them men. And two distinct kinds of alcohol abuse appear to have emerged from the statistics.

One kind the researchers found only in men. In a typical case, the man had begun to develop severe drinking problems in his teens and eventually ended up in the courts because of an alcohol-related misdemeanor, often violent. The researchers found that 18 per cent of the biological sons of such alcoholic men also displayed the syndrome — whether or not their adoptive parents drank heavily.

But why did only males develop it? And why, in general, does alcoholism appear to be five to six times more common in men than in women? One possible answer, of course, is that society is far more tolerant of drunkenness in men than in women, and such social control limits many women's use of alcohol. If that is the reason, women might be inheriting the same genetic predisposition but showing its effects in some other way.

So the researchers looked into the employment and health records of the adopted women. They found a cluster of women who took numerous sick leaves, many of them for backache, stomachache and other somewhat vague pains.

The Stockholm researchers then found that 23 per cent of the daughters of men with the severe, early alcoholism exhibited such behaviour, chronically suffering vague ills that typically betray a psychiatric problem. The behaviour was seen in a smaller 14 per cent of daughters of nonalcoholic fathers. The researchers concluded that whatever predisposed the sons of these severely alcoholic fathers to alcoholism was also making the daughters more likely to suffer psychosomatic illnesses.

The Stockholm researchers believe they have identified a second type of alcoholism, in which one or both of the biological parents developed problems in adulthood. Both the sons and the daughters of these drinkers tended to develop similar moderate drinking problems if they grew up in a "good" adoptive home. However, if they grew up in homes of heavy drinkers, they tended to develop severe alcoholism — so that environment appeared to be exacerbating a genetic predisposition.

Criminal laws

Tackling the touchy subject of

criminal behaviour, the Stockholm team again recorded some interesting patterns, patterns that suggested a role for heredity as well as for environment. The researchers found differences when they checked what sort of home the adoptees grew up in, but also differences associated with whether the biological parents were law-abiding or had criminal records.

For example, of the adopted men born of law-abiding parents and reared in "good" homes of skilled workers, 3 per cent had a conviction for a crime. Among adopted men who were reared in such homes but whose biological parents had been convicted of a crime, 12 per cent — four times as many — committed a crime themselves.

Among adopted men with an unfavourable early environment, such as being shuttled through several institutions and ending up in a low-social-status home, 7 per cent of those born of law-abiding biological parents committed a crime. This figure soared to 40 per cent for those whose biological parents had criminal records.

How genes could lead to criminal behaviour isn't known. But scientists do point to cases of men who have inherited an extra sex chromosome. Many such men have an excess of male sex hormones, which may be tied to increased aggressiveness. Such men also tend to be tall and of low intelligence, and they often have poor emotional control, traits that may lead them to have a difficult time in society.

Nobody really knows. The genetic study of behaviour is still a young science, employing mostly statistics. Its next phase will be carried out at the molecular level, as biologists in laboratories try to link specific genes and genetic defects to patterns seen in the epidemiologists' data. That phase will be starting any day now — The Wall Street Journal.

Sadler's Wells: Another famous London theatre faces dilemma

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

LONDON — Actors from Edmund Kean to John Gielgud have trod its stage, and such dancers as Alicia Markova and Margot Fonteyn have illuminated its past. But London's beloved Sadler's Wells Theatre is fighting for a future.

The illustrious 300-year-old playhouse is threatened with closure May 17 because the municipal administration that funded a portion of its running costs is being abolished.

Entertainers, artists and businessmen are rallying to the cause, and hope remains that the lights will stay on at "The Wells." In a city that takes theatrical tradition seriously, memories are now becoming a source of capital.

"I care for Sadler's Wells because it has housed such wonderful companies," said dame Peggy Ashcroft, the Oscar-winning star of "A Passage to India" who acted at the Wells in 1932 during its tenure as a north London annex to the equally famous old Vic Theatre.

"I am only one of a multitude who owe their whole careers to the Sadler's Wells Theatre," said David Wall, formerly the senior principal dancer with London's Royal Ballet, the internationally renowned dance troupe that began life as the Vic-Wells ballet in 1931.

Wall and dame Peggy were among the celebrities from the worlds of theatre, dance and music who appeared at a Covent Garden gala Feb. 9 to generate funds and fanfare for the beleaguered Wells. An unimpressive 1,499-seat theatre off the beaten cultural path in the London borough of Islington.

A survivor of earlier financial crises, the Wells currently needs £267,000 (£387,150) to cover 10 per cent of running costs beyond May 17.

These funds were previously provided by the Greater London Council, a municipal administration — currently left

that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government will abolish March 31. The rest of the funding comes from sponsorship and box office receipts.

So far, the Wells has received £50,000 (£72,500) from a Canadian telecommunications concern, Northern Telecom, as well as £20,000 (£24,100) from the Covent Garden gala. That's big money for a theatre that began life in 1683 as a "music house" for highway surveyor Thomas Sadler, who found curative medicinal wells on his property.

Over 303 years, Sadler's once-pastoral country dwelling has watched a city grow up around it, spawning two of Britain's premier cultural companies — the Royal Ballet and the English National Opera — and showcasing what would become the national theatre.

The desire to ensure its future is argued dance critic Clement Crisp in the Financial Times. "A cause which should engage the sympathies of everyone who valued the standards of the lyric arts in Britain."

Its stage was a home to the celebrated mime Joseph Grimaldi, who ended a 45-year career at the Wells with a "farewell address" in 1828. The great Shakespearean actor Edmund Kean played there as a boy in 1804 and later that century Wordsworth and Dickens could be seen in the audience.

In 1968, the Opera Company, known by then as Sadler's Wells Opera, moved to the London coliseum to become the English national opera. In 1983, a new Sadler's Wells opera company was formed, based in Islington, which will live its home if the theatre closes.

The theatre has recently served foreign companies, from the New York-based troupes of Alvin Ailey, Paul Taylor, Joyce Trisler, Erick Hawkins, and Laura Dean to Japan's Sankai Juku, Portugal's Ballet Gulbenkian, and Czechoslovakia's Black theatre of Prague.

East and West Berlin locked in dispute over refugees

By Ralph Boulton
Reuters

WEST BERLIN — A westward stream of refugees using an "open door" in the fortified Berlin wall is sharpening tensions between West Berlin and the Communist east German state that surrounds it.

West Berlin's anger is directed primarily at the Communist authorities who have issued transit visas to thousands of "refugees" arriving at East Germany's Schoenefeld airport from countries such as Iran, Iraq, India and Pakistan.

"Almost anybody ... could just walk into West Berlin from the east without any checks, apply for asylum here and live two years at our cost," West Berlin interior senator Heinrich Lummer told Reuters.

Over 70,000 applied for political asylum in West Germany last year and 22,000 in West Berlin. The arrivals take an urban railway train, crossing the fortifications of the Berlin wall and pass unhindered into West Berlin.

For reasons rooted in the post-1945 status of the city, the authorities here do not recognise the east-west divide as an international frontier and mount no regular border checks.

Lummer said the dispute with East Germany sharpened last week when Communist border guards failed to implement a pledge to stop allowing transit to would-be refugees if they did not have visas issued by Bonn.

"There's not the slightest trace of them keeping their pledge. People are still arriving in considerable numbers in the Federal Republic (West Germany) and here," he said.

"It can only damage our relations to the East," he added. East Germany responded swiftly with a foreign ministry statement which said: "East Germany adheres strictly to its undertakings ... such accusations have no foundation in fact."

But it repeated its original February 1 pledge that the restrictions, requested by Bonn, did not apply to West Berlin. The city was under occupation law and did not formally belong to the West German state.

By another quirk of post-World War II international agreements, West Berlin remains under the formal jurisdiction of former British, French and U.S. occupying powers.

Lummer had hoped the East

Germans would apply the ruling to West Berlin in practice even if it made no formal pledge, the course it took with a specific restriction on Tamil refugees arriving here from Sri Lanka last year.

Now he fears the new East German ruling, if applied to West Germany and not West Berlin, could further increase the pressure on a city already hosting 11,000 asylum seekers.

Lummer allowed that the East German border authorities could simply be slow in enforcing the new government directive. "I can't believe even the GDR (East Germany) would consider it in its interests if West Berlin lost its character as a German city. Whenever a community has to assimilate many different nationalities with unrelated cultures there is social conflict," he said.

West Berlin officials estimate that provision of food, pocket money and accommodation to "refugees" costs the city some 100 million marks (\$44 million) a year.

The burden is eased every Wednesday when buses carry a proportion of the refugees along East German transit motorways to West Germany under a quota scheme.

Behind the wrangles, quotas and budgetary costs lurks a human misery. About a hundred people queued in early morning frost and snow every day last week at the asylum centre to register their arrival here. Many were with children, others alone.

One Sikh from India's Punjab state, who asked not to be named, said East Germany had provided his only way to Europe.

"England is impossible without a visa and the East Germans offered cheap one-way airline flights and security of passage," he said as he stood at the entrance to the centre.

The next day he would be told whether he would stay in West Berlin or travel to West Germany for his case to be considered.

The radical Alternative List (AL) group condemns Lummer's efforts to stem the flow of refugees and accuses him of callousness over their fate. More than 1,000 people were sent home last year.

"For refugees from Iran, for instance, this can mean certain death. What we see is the terrible policy aimed at scaring off would-be refugees facing troubles in their homeland," AL spokesman Heide-Marie Bischoff-Pflanz said.

India ponders population problem

Despite government expenditure amounting to billions of dollars, India's family planning programme has not achieved a major reduction of the country's population growth rate. A new Indian government report, initiated by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and to be unveiled soon, is likely to adopt novel approaches to the problem. John Rowley is the editor of "People" magazine, published in London by the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

LONDON — India is, once again, agonizing over its mounting population. By the year 2050, on present trends, Indians may overtake the Chinese, achieving the dubious distinction of becoming the most populous country ever to have existed on earth.

For months, market researchers, family welfare bureaucrats, groups of experts and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi himself have been pondering this prospect. For while China seems to be on course for an almost stable population of around 1,450 million by 2050, the standard projection for India will leave her with over 1,500 million people by that date — and still rising.

Gandhi has called for a rethinking of India's family welfare policy, and a government report which announces some new approaches to the population problem is expected soon.

What really worries Gandhi is the apparent lack of return on the central government's investment in family planning and related activities. Over a five year period, \$6 billion will be spent on "family welfare" work — nearly all of it just to maintain the existing network of services.

Despite the government's expenditure, family planning is practised by only 30 per cent of couples between the ages of 15 and 45. Increased use of contraceptives has not led to the expected fall in the birth rate, and population growth is still 2.2 per cent per year.

A recent report sponsored by the Delhi-based Family Planning Foundation goes some way to explaining why this is so. It points out that the prevalence of contraceptive use ranges from a high of 70 per cent in one district in Gujarat to only 4 per cent in part of Kashmir. There are similar variations in female literacy, infant mortality and per capita income.

India has not achieved what it might have done, the report says, because its family planning programme is carried out "in isolation from the real life situation of the people, particularly those in rural areas."

"Population control is the government's highest priority," Rajiv Gandhi said recently, adding that "we are definitely spending too much money and not getting proportionate returns." There was, he complained, "almost no base of information on how well the programmes work."

India is committed to reaching, by the year 2000 a "replacement level" of reproduction: sufficient to ensure that each mother replaces herself, but no more. This means that the average family would have only about 2.3 children, compared with today's average of 4.5.

The aim is to reach about 60 per cent of all eligible couples with effective contraception, to reduce birth rates and to cut infant mortality from the present 118 to less than 60 per 1,000. If this is done India might reach the mid-21st century with 200 million fewer

people than current World Bank projections predict.

But even maintaining the present level of family planning coverage will require involving almost twice as many people as the total programme has reached so far. How is it to be done?

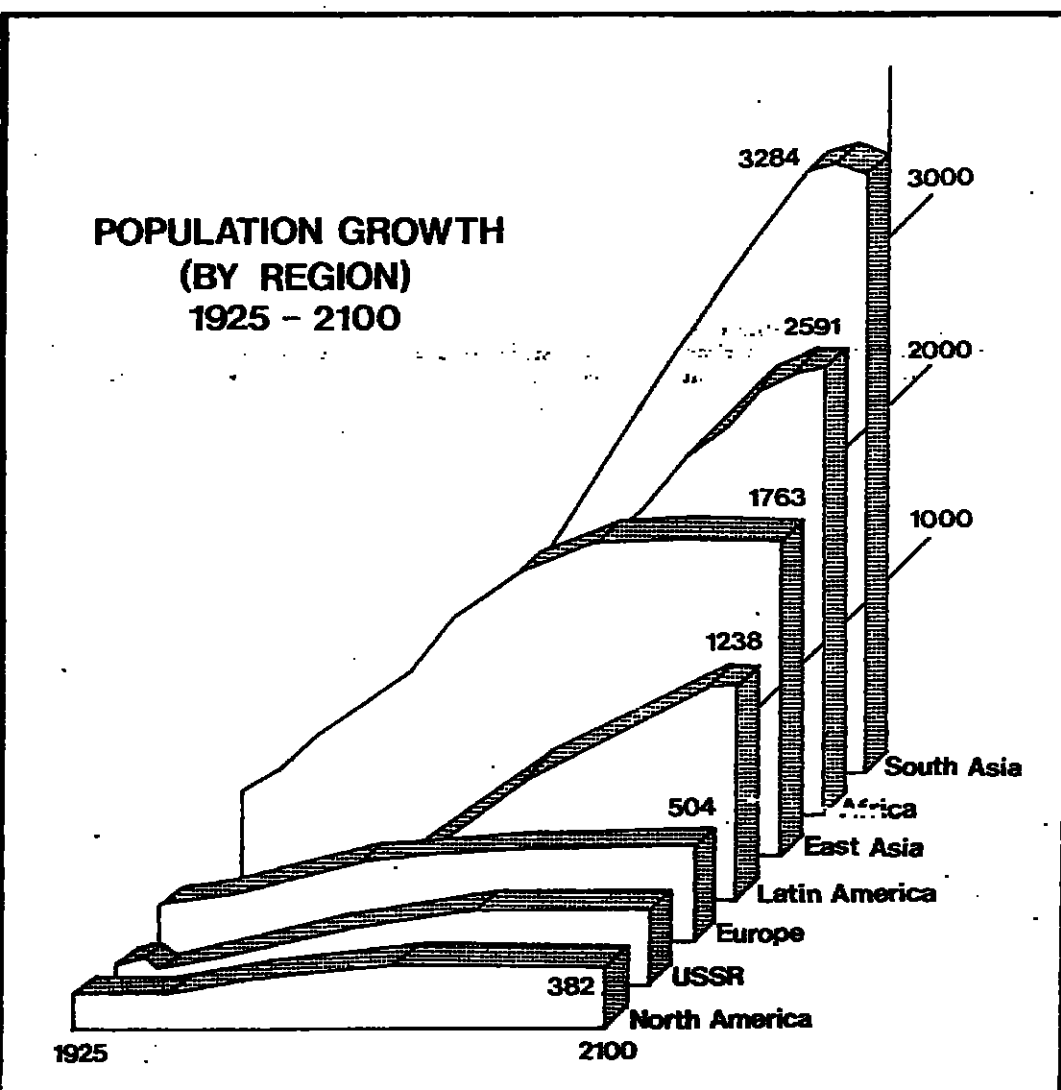
One certainty is that reliance on sterilisation, which at present accounts for 60 per cent of the demand placed on family planning services, will be reduced. With 40 per cent of India's population below 15 years of age, other methods such as the birth control pill — barely used in India until recently — as well as the condom and the intrauterine device (IUD) will be given greater attention.

The government will almost certainly experiment with some forms of incentive for small families. One idea is to provide a small monthly stipend for those who, having two daughters, resist the cultural pressure to try for a son. Alternatively, a sum may be promised which would be cashable after 20 years.

Another plan is to make greater use of commercial channels to promote and sell contraceptives at subsidised prices. A U.S. aided project for a contraceptive marketing organisation is already beginning to move.

Non-governmental organisations will play a much greater role in the delivery of family planning information and services. Any private organisation which can put up a good scheme is likely to get government backing. The Family Planning association of India has already secured a grant to begin a consultancy service for other voluntary organisations wishing to integrate family planning into their work.

It appears that the government will also strengthen its system of



"village health guides" — local workers who are given short training courses to encourage community participation in simple medical care and contraception.

India's wide and growing regional disparities make global solutions impossible. It will be counter-productive to press the

two-child norm onto poor, illiterate, tribal, nomadic and farming families where infant mortality remains high and children are the only security and wealth which parents possess.

Tackling the underlying environmental and poverty problems which these families face is the spr-

ingboard for successful family planning. Indications are that the new family welfare programme will attempt to link population planning with the need for broader social and economic reforms, especially those relating to child survival and the lives of women — Earthscan feature.

ITT switches back to its European roots

ITT is to abandon efforts to adapt its System 12 digital telephone exchange switch to U.S. standards. Paul Taylor looks at the U.S. conglomerate's reasoning behind this move.

NEW YORK — The decision by ITT to abandon efforts to adapt its flagship telecommunications product, the System 12 digital telephone exchange switch, to U.S. standards highlights the renewed dependence on Europe for its manufacturing base.

When Mr. Rand V. Araskog, ITT's chairman and chief executive, announced the System 12 decision some days ago — a move which led to establishing a pre-tax \$105 million reserve to cover the costs of winding down the U.S. System 12 operations and plunging the group into a \$15 million fourth-quarter loss — he repeatedly emphasised that ITT would now be free to concentrate its telecommunications resources in Europe.

ITT, like many of its European and Japanese rivals, had set its sights on becoming the "third supplier" of digital switching equipment to the newly-divested ind-

pendent Bell telephone operating companies in the U.S. At the moment, the U.S. market is dominated by AT&T and Canada's Northern Telecom. But challengers reasoned that in the wake of the Bell system break-up, they had an opportunity to grab a slice of a fast-moving marketplace estimated to be worth about \$8.5 billion a year or about a third of the global total.

Armed with its technologically-advanced System 12 switch, developed in Europe at a cost of about \$1 billion, ITT appeared to have a head start on some of its rivals. To capitalise on this base ITT spent about \$150 million over two years attempting to adapt the switch to U.S. standards. But for ITT at least, time ran out.

"When you are crossing a river you get to the middle and decide whether or not it's going to be worth it, or whether to go back to where you came from, which in our case is Europe," says Mr. Ar-

askog. For Mr. Araskog and ITT, the decision was clearly a difficult one. The ITT chairman is angered by some Press suggestions that adapting System 12 to the U.S. market was his "pet project." Nevertheless, he accepts that the efforts did have a "high priority."

What happened to change this strategy? First, ITT, like other competitors, discovered that adapting European switches to the demands of the U.S. marketplace was considerably more difficult than had been expected. Not only were hardware and software changes required, but the process required the re-writing of huge volumes of documentation.

Even more importantly, the now independent Bell operating companies moved far quicker than ITT expected in the wake of the Bell system break-up to purchase new digital network equipment.

Effectively this created a key "window of opportunity" for new equipment suppliers. For ITT, which had planned to deliver its digital switch in late 1987 or 1988, the window was rapidly slamming

shut. "Suddenly we had a very different view as to what was going to be available to us to get margin," says Mr. Araskog. The market realities began to dawn on ITT early last autumn. To back up its own observations ITT employed a team of management consultants to prepare a report on U.S. sales prospects. That report, prepared by Booz, Allen and Hamilton, confirmed ITT's view that "being number three in the U.S. market in the time period we were talking about simply was not worth it."

The immediate financial cost to ITT of the decision to abandon the effort will not be particularly high. Most of System 12's research and development costs have been written off along the way. The \$105 million pre-tax reserve set up to cover the costs of the final decision to pull the plug on the project will amount to about \$60 million to \$70 million after tax.

That reserve will cover, among other items, asset disposals, contract losses and cancellations and severance benefits for the 1,600 workers in four ITT plants across

the U.S. About 100 of these employees are likely to be transferred to System 12 operations in Europe. What is more, according to Mr. Araskog, about 30 or 40 per cent of the U.S.R. and D effort on System 12 has already been applied to European operations.

Mr. Araskog also insists that the move will have little long-term impact on ITT's bottom-line results. "We certainly do not regard this a strategic failure at all," he says. "The U.S. (telecom market) has never contributed significant profit margins to ITT." As such, he insists that while ITT would have liked a share of the U.S. digital switch market, it is not essential to the group's overall strategy.

What is immediately clear is ITT's share price up ahead of the formal announcement ending the U.S. System 12 project — reflecting the view that ITT should "cut its losses" in the U.S. market.

One of the major challenges Mr. Araskog and ITT will face now is to reassure European and other non-American System 12 customers that ITT remains com-

mitted to developing the switch. By re-emphasising the European, and European export, markets for System 12, which Mr. Araskog still claims is a technologically superior product, ITT believes it can offset any negative implications from its U.S. decision.

Because ITT paid for European System 12 R and D out of the profits from older switching equipment sales, Mr. Araskog says that contract deliveries generate bottom-line profits immediately. So far, ITT says System 12 domestic deliveries are profitable in three European countries.

"The investment will be justified," says Mr. Araskog. "We did not expect to get 12 million lines on order and I think before we are done we will get 20 million lines — that will fully justify the investment."

What is immediately clear is that the decision to abandon the U.S. System 12 project will re-emphasise ITT's European manufacturing roots. — Financial Times features.

Everton's lead grows as United suffers new defeat

LONDON (R) — Champions Everton made the most of their undersoil heating to beat struggling Aston Villa 2-0 Saturday and go six points clear of Manchester United, who were surprisingly beaten at Southampton, at the top of the English soccer First Division.

On a day when weather again played havoc with the British soccer programme — 26 games were postponed and the pools panel sat for the fourth consecutive week — goals by Scottish striker Graeme Sharp and England's Gary Linaker ensured Everton of a clear lead over their chief rivals for the title.

Sharp, who agreed a new four-year contract with the club Saturday, opened the scoring in the 75th minute and Linaker added a second, his 31st goal of the season, eight minutes later.

Manchester United, forced to perform on a snow-covered pitch at Southampton, never threatened to overcome either the treacherous ground or their opponents and slumped to a 1-0 defeat when midfielder Glenn Cockerill scored nine minutes from time.

With third-placed Liverpool at Tottenham for their live televised match Sunday and Chelsea and

West Ham both frustrated by frozen pitches, sixth-placed Luton closed on the leading pack with a 1-0 home victory over Sheffield Wednesday.

Centre-forward Mick Harford, widely tipped as a contender for England's Mexico-bound World Cup squad, headed their winner in the 16th minute, his 18th goal of the season.

Newcastle United also made up ground with a 1-0 victory, an 81st minute goal by defender Glenn Roeder earning them three points over eighth-placed Arsenal whose championship challenge now rests on a large number of games they have in hand on the teams above them.

Arsenal were Saturday without their England under-21 mid-fielders Stewart Robson and Paul Davis, but manager Don Howe hoped they would return in time for Monday's Football Association (F.A.) Cup fifth round replay against Luton, one of seven

ties yet to be settled.

Struggling Birmingham City, who have discovered a new lease of attacking life since manager John Bond succeeded Ron Saunders last month, inflicted Queen's Park Rangers sixth consecutive away defeat with a 2-0 win.

Wayne Clarke shot Birmingham ahead with a 52nd minute penalty and Robert Hopkins added their second five minutes from time to lift them level on points with city rivals Aston Villa, but still languishing in the bottom trio of the First Division.

While the cigar-smoking Bond must have been pleased at his team's win — their first home league success for nearly six months — his pleasure could not have exceeded that of Oxford United's manager Maurice Evans, whose side recorded their first away win in the First Division, 3-0 at Manchester City.

Striker John Aldridge, whose chief claim to fame until this season had been his likeness to Liverpool's Ian Rush, continued to prove the similarity was not merely physical with two of the goals to take his tally to 21. Jeremy Charles added Oxford's third goal.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Sharari welcomes FIFA president

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Youth Hisham Al Sharari and the board of the Jordan Football Association met Federation of International Football Associations President Dr. Jose Havelange upon his arrival Saturday night on a four-day visit to Jordan. The welcoming delegation later escorted Dr. Havelange to the Marriott Hotel for a reception in his honour.

Jordanian handball squad scores victory

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's handball team beat the Egyptian side Al Zamalek 23-19 Friday night in a friendly match at Al Hussein Youth City attended by Minister of Youth Hisham Al Sharari. The Jordanian side led Al Zamalek, who are the current African champions, 13-11 at the half. On Sunday Al Zamalek will tackle the Jordanian champion side Al Arabi in Irbid.

Uday Hussein named Iraqi Olympic chief

BAGHDAD (R) — Uday Saddam Hussein, son of the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, has been elected president of the Iraqi Olympic Committee, local newspapers reported Saturday.

Sweden beats Bahrain 2-0 in friendly

BAHRAIN (R) — Sweden beat Bahrain 2-0 (half time 2-0) in a friendly match Saturday as part of Bahrain's warm-up for this month's Gulf Soccer Tournament. The two teams meet here again on Tuesday.

Schumacher may miss Mexico

COLOGNE, West Germany (R) — West German goalkeeper Harald Schumacher is considering refusing to play in the World Cup finals in Mexico after being suspended for four weeks by the national soccer federation. Schumacher's manager Ruediger Schmitz told reporters Saturday that the goalkeeper was deeply disappointed by the suspension and had talked about missing Mexico. But he said no final decision had been made. The Cologne goalkeeper, one of the world's best, was reported to be angry with national team manager Franz Beckenbauer, who gave evidence at Schumacher's disciplinary hearing.

China bids to improve football team

PEKING (R) — China will set up two rival national soccer teams, the Reds and the Yellows, to vie for the honour of representing the country abroad, the China Daily reported Saturday. The Chinese Football Association decided on the move to encourage a better standard of play after China was eliminated from World Cup competition in May when the national team lost 2-1 at home to Hong Kong.

Bubka leads record-breakers

NEW YORK (R) — Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union highlighted a night of four indoor world bests by bettering his own week-old pole vault mark at the Grand Prix Indoor Athletics meeting in New York on Friday.

Bubka cleared 5.95 metres to improve his previous best, set in Los Angeles last week, by one centimetre. It was the fourth time the Russian had improved the world mark this season.

East German Marita Koch clocked 22.89 seconds Friday night — a 220-yard world indoor best — while Americans Lynn Jennings and Jim Heiring set new marks in the women's two miles and men's two-mile walk respectively.

The Bubka family dominated the pole vault competition with Sergei's younger brother Vasily finishing second on 5.75 metres.

But there was disappointment for American Billy Olson, who has also broken the pole vault best four times this winter.

He failed to register a clearance along with compatriot Joe Dial, who set a world best on February 1 only to see it wiped out by Bubka a week later.

Bubka received a standing ovation from the 15,000 crowd and afterwards attributed his performance to a family celebration. "It is my mother's birthday," he said, "and that is inspiration enough."

West German World Cup hopes hinge on health of Rudi Voeller

By Paul Radford
Rover

BONN — West Germany's World Cup hopes rest heavily on a desperate battle for fitness by a thin, wiry striker with one leg shorter than the other.

Rudi Voeller has become the symbol of West German soccer over the past two years, a role previously enjoyed by team captain and fellow-striker Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

But the 25-year-old centre-forward has been plagued by serious injuries this season and the repeated failures of his comeback attempts have alarmed the nation.

Now, following surgery for a groin injury, the Werder Bremen striker fears he may not recover in time for Mexico. The lively Voeller, a constant menace to opposing defences with his ability to shield the ball and an uncanny eye for the half-chance, has everything it takes to be one of the big personalities in Mexico.

At the start of the season he was playing better than ever. He scored eight goals in the first seven league games and drew euphoric praise from the media.

But an ankle injury put him out of action for seven weeks and although he scored on his return against Borussia Moenchengladbach, fate struck again in the next game with champions Bayern Munich.

Bayern captain Klaus Augenthaler, a national team colleague, made himself the most unpopular man in the country with a lunging tackle to fell Voeller, who limped off with a groin injury and has not played since.

He resumed training in January more than two months later, but twice suffered a recurrence of the problem which culminated in surgery in mid-February.

Voeller himself said his participation in the World Cup was in great danger, but the Belgian surgeon who carried out the operation

hopes he will be fit to return in early May.

The injury saga did, however, cost Werder Bremen team doctor Rolf Wiedenmann his job. Wiedenmann revealed that Voeller played in persistent pain because of a tilted pelvis, caused because his right leg is shorter than his left.

Voeller started as a left-winger with second division Kickers Offenbach. Though slightly built and relatively short, at 1.76 metres, for a striker, his next club Mainz 1860 converted him to centre-forward with instant success.

He was top scorer in the second division with 37 goals in 1982 and Werder snapped him up for \$500,000 — money well spent as he has scored 75 league goals in three years.

Voeller made his international debut for West Germany against Northern Ireland in November 1982 and has held his place ever since, scoring 15 goals in 29 internationals.

Rummenigge, Voeller's striking partner, has won just about every award the game can offer — except the World Cup.

European Footballer of the Year in 1980 and 1981, he won the European Championship with West Germany in 1980, the European Cup with Bayern Munich in 1976 and a string of domestic league and cup honours.

His 1984 transfer from Bayern to Internazionale Milan of Italy for a fee of \$4.8 million made him the most expensive European player ever.

Only former Bayern clubmate Gerd Mueller has scored more than his 44 goals for the national team and only three other players have more than his 87 caps for West Germany.

Now 31, Rummenigge's best days are behind him but he is still a potential match-winner with his ability to turn a defender and fire in shots from any angle.

Though Rummenigge has lacked his old fire with the national

team for some time now, West German manager Franz Beckenbauer has resisted calls for him to be dropped and has left no doubt that he will be his captain for Mexico.

If Beckenbauer ever dropped Harald "Toni" Schumacher, he would probably be lynched by the nation's soccer fans, who regard the goalkeeper as the best in the world.

Schumacher is best remembered for the horrific foul which put Frenchman Patrick Batiston in hospital with a broken jaw during the World Cup semifinal in Spain four years ago.

In West Germany, he has long since been forgiven and the incident is now regarded as an unfortunate example of his best qualities — total commitment and a burning desire to win.

Schumacher, 31, regards himself as a player of average talent but takes pride in training harder than anyone else.

Every goal he concedes is taken as a personal insult. Schumacher is visibly angry after every defeat and often refuses to talk to the press.

Schumacher, who has 65 caps, has remained loyal to his home town Cologne throughout his career, taking the nickname "Toni" from another goalkeeper named Schumacher who played for the club in the 1960s. They are not related.

The West Germans are spoiled for stars. Hans-Peter Briegel, the powerful midfielder nicknamed the "Panzer", in Italy where he helped Verona to the league title last year, Cologne's tricky but erratic winger Pierre Littbarski and the solid Stuttgart stopper Karl-Heinz Forster have all proved themselves in the international arena before.

But one of fans would most like to have — Barcelona midfielder Bernd Schuster — steadfastly refuses to play for the national team for personal reasons.

Detroit Pistons win tenth straight

NEW YORK (AP) — It was just one of those days for Kent Benson — and just one of those nights for 25,888 fans in the Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan.

Benson and another former Indiana University player, Isiah Thomas, helped Detroit break two team records Friday night in a 115-103 NBA victory over Atlanta.

The victory was the 10th in a row for the Pistons and their 14th straight at home.

Benson scored 17 points, 15 in the first quarter to give the Pistons an early boost, and Thomas led the club with 30 points.

"I guess I've been getting more aggressive the last two months," Benson said. "But I was a little more so tonight. You have those days once in a while you just feel stronger. It usually isn't my job to score with this team, but I got it going early offensively."

Pistons coach Chuck Daly gave the enthusiastic crowd part credit for the victory, despite 35 points by Atlanta's Dominique Wilkins.

The Pistons trailed by five points midway through the second quarter before going on a 14-4 run that pulled Detroit ahead 59-54 with 4:52 to go. Detroit allowed Atlanta to get no closer than six points in the fourth quarter, and several times the Pistons led by as many as 12.

In the rest of the NBA, it was: Philadelphia 123, Dallas 120; Boston 124, L.A. Clippers 108; New Jersey 113, San Antonio 110; Chicago 116, Cleveland 96; Milwaukee 102, Washington 84; Sacramento 121, Indiana 100, and Los Angeles Lakers 115, Phoenix 103.

Wilkins set out most of the fourth quarter after banging his knee in a collision with Detroit's Vinnie Johnson.

76ers 123, Mavericks 120.

Julius Erving hit a running three-point shot from halfcourt to break a 120-120 tie at the buzzer as Philadelphia handed Dallas its sixth straight loss. The 76ers inbounded the ball in the backcourt

with just two seconds left, and when the ball went through, it gave Erving 20 points for the game.

Philadelphia regained possession when Mark Aguirre of the Mavericks missed a long jumper and Moses Malone got the rebound. Malone's short jumper tied the score 120-120.

Celtics 124, Clippers 108. Boston won its 16th straight home game, getting 26 points apiece from Kevin McHale and Robert Parish to beat the Clippers. The victory improved Boston's home record to 25-1.

The Celtics scored the game's first seven points and never trailed. They led 99-83 early in the fourth quarter before the Clippers ran off eight straight points, four each by Rory White and Frank Edwards, to cut the lead to eight.

But Boston countered with eight straight points of its own, including two layups by Larry Bird, to lead by 16 with 4:48 to play. Marques Johnson had 24 points for the Clippers.

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New Filipino government starts to clean up human rights record

MANILA (Agencies) — President Corazon Aquino is moving quickly to fulfil a pledge that human rights would be a top priority of the new Philippines government.

One day after taking power Mrs. Aquino ordered the release of all political prisoners, including Jose Maria Sison, alleged leader of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines.

Armed Forces Chief Gen. Fidel Ramos has promised to clean up the military, accused of being the worst human rights offender.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International welcomed the release order and offered its services in setting up safeguards in the country. It had been sharply critical of the human rights record of ex-President Ferdinand Marcos.

Spokesman David Laulich said in London the organisation believed all political prisoners should be released unconditionally.

He added that he hoped the armed forces would respect the laws of the country, saying that in the past they and paramilitary groups had abducted and killed people with the sanction of the authorities.

"These laws have all too often

been flouted by the authorities," he said.

Thirty-nine detainees were released on Thursday, followed by six more Saturday.

They were Edicio de la Torre and Horacio Morales, alleged officials of the National Democratic Front, a leftist umbrella organisation, Victor Corpuz, a graduate of the Philippines Military Academy who defected to the NPA, Nemesio Prudente, Alfredo Rimando, and Elenita Bardanes.

Sison, who has been charged with subversion and rebellion in a military court, was arrested in 1976 together with his wife Juliet and Bernabe Buscayno, founder of the rebel Communist New People's Army (NPA).

The Task Force Detainees (TDF) human rights groups said between 400 and 600 people were held in camps, among them priests, lawyers and other professionals detained during and after martial law which lasted from 1972 to 1981.

"Of course we are happy. The

detainees and their relatives are jubilant," a TDF spokesman said. "The release of these political prisoners is one step towards achieving genuine national reconciliation."

She said it was too early to tell how forces fighting the Communist rebels would react.

Gen. Ramos said Friday that he would "face the reality" that some officers might be accused of torture by freed prisoners.

He said the army's behaviour in the field would be improved by the replacement of cliques of older senior officers by younger, more professional soldiers.

Gen. Ramos, who tried to improve the army's image when he was acting armed forces chief, said he hoped the new spirit of co-operation between the military and the people forged during last week's revolt against Mr. Marcos would help it in its fight against the rebels.

Release of political prisoners and an eventual amnesty was a key pledge in Mrs. Aquino's election campaign, as well as an offer of a ceasefire to the guerrillas.

She also promised the return of a free press.

Although no formal censorship

existed after martial law was lifted, many journalists have suffered harassment and intimidation. Sixteen were murdered last year.

The U.S. ambassador in Manila said Saturday that President Corazon Aquino seems to be enjoying "enormous public support" as she begins governing the country.

Ambassador Stephen H. Bosworth said the government's major challenge would be to get the economy moving.

"Doing that will be a major determinant in their ability to continue to enjoy the enormous popular support they have now," Mr. Bosworth said.

Power in the country is exercised from a private seven-storey office building in Manila's financial district of Makati and the atmosphere is one of barely controlled confusion.

Volunteers help out at the front desk.

"As you can see everything is a mess," one of the housewives helping the new president told a visitor.

No date has been set for a government move to Malacanang Palace.

Gorbachev rebukes flatterer

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has reinforced his reputation for personal modesty with a public rebuke to a flatterer at the Communist Party Congress.

A particularly glowing compliment in a speech by film industry director Lev Kulidzhanov brought an interruption from the Kremlin chief, who celebrates his 55th birthday Sunday.

Half-rising in his seat above the speaker's lectern, he protested jovially that his name was being mentioned too often, bringing prolonged applause and laughter from the 5,000 delegates at the Kremlin Palace of Congresses.

The incident, during a speech Friday, was shown on television news later and is certain to boost the image projected by Soviet officials of a tough no-nonsense leader disdainful of flattery and personal tributes.

His approach contrasts strongly with that of the late Leonid Brezhnev, who welcomed applause and compliments. The former leader was loaded with honours and medals and no speech was complete without a tribute to his wisdom or leadership.

Anecdotes about Mr. Gorbachev's modesty began circulating soon after he took office a year ago. But the practice of citing the leader's name or quoting him in speeches has been creeping back in.

Mr. Gorbachev made a typically jocular gesture to discourage excessive applause after his marathon five-hour speech which opened the five-yearly congress on Tuesday.

Returning to his place on the rostrum as the delegates rose to give him a standing ovation, he joined in the applause for a minute. Then he looked ostentatiously at his wrist-watch with a grin and the television coverage faded out.

Most Soviet speakers during the first four days of the congress have made a point of mentioning Mr. Gorbachev's opening speech, known as the political report, referring to him by his first name and patronymic — Mikhail Sergeyevich.

It was this that got Kulidzhanov into trouble. "When Mikhail Sergeyevich finished his report and said down," he said, "I experienced a feeling, if I may say so, of regret that it was over."

Mr. Gorbachev broke in: "Let's stop this declining of Mikhail Sergeyevich" — a comparison of the frequency with which his name was being mentioned to the reciting of a grammar lesson.

Kulidzhanov caught up the analogy by saying this was a lesson which should be put into practice. He then continued his speech, thanking Mr. Gorbachev in the name of his colleagues for the criticisms of the film industry contained in the political report.

An orthodox cultural line seems to be emerging from the first Soviet Communist party congress under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, disappointing artists and intellectuals hoping for signs of liberalism.

Sweden in horror after Palme's murder

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden reacted with horror to Prime Minister Olof Palme's assassination, with people staring in disbelief at blacked-out newspaper headlines which appeared on news stands Saturday morning.

As daylight broke over the scene of the murder, where a large pool of blood still scarred the frozen pavement, a hushed crowd gathered in silent tribute to the slain prime minister.

"Who has killed our peace dove?" Read a poignant note pinned to the police barrier set up around the spot, which was also strewn with red roses — symbol of the Social Democratic Party which Mr. Palme had led since 1969.

"People wept when they heard the news on the car radio. I can't believe it," a taxi driver told Reuters.

At Stockholm's central station, holiday-makers on their way to skiing holidays, normally a festive occasion, stood silently in small groups waiting for their trains.

Night clubs and discotheques, in full swing when Mr. Palme was struck down, closed Friday night after the news was broadcast on special television and radio news bulletins.

Those old enough to remember compared their feelings of numb shock to the reaction which greeted the murder of U.S. President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas in November 1963.

"I can hardly speak," sobbed Bo Torsesson, the Social Democratic Party secretary after the government met in crisis session into the early hours of the morning.

The killing, the first political assassination in Sweden in modern times, was doubly shocking in a country where violent crime is unusual and murder even more rare.

"It's incredible. It can't happen in Sweden," said a passer-by in a typical reaction. "It makes you despair."

Sweden's crime rate has risen in recent years but it is still low by international standards and Stockholm is known as one of the safest capital cities in the world. It is difficult to obtain a licence to carry a gun.

Officials said the murder was bound to endanger the relaxed openness of Swedish politics and would put an end to the days when a prime minister could safely stroll unescorted through the streets.

In a foretaste of things to come, caretaker Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson was flanked by bodyguards when he held a news conference Saturday morning. Even when guarded, Mr. Palme was never seen with more than two security men.

Flags flew at half-mast all over Sweden and church bells tolling.

A radio announcer said the emotional reaction in the country was unparalleled, with people flooding the broadcasting authority's switchboard to voice their sense of loss and despair.

A large pool of blood and two bouquets of red roses marked the scene on the Stockholm street where Mr. Palme was shot dead.

A small force of police kept back a crowd of onlookers, many of them in tears.

One bouquet of red roses lay on the splash of blood which stood out starkly on the frozen pavement. Another bouquet lay nearby.

Among the onlookers was 23-year-old Joergen Nilsson, who said he arrived at the murder scene minutes after hearing shots ring out.

"We had no idea it was Palme," Nilsson told Reuters. "There was a small crowd around a man lying on the ground. His wife was kneeling beside him. She was totally paralysed."

Mr. Palme's wife Lisbeth was slightly injured in the attack but released from hospital after several hours.

Nilsson, who works for the Swedish Telecommunications Authority, said he and some friends had been about 200 metres away when they heard two shots.

"I've done military service so I knew immediately they were shots," he said. "We raced over and got there just before the ambulance. It arrived here very quickly."

Mr. Palme was rushed to Sabbatsberg Hospital but pronounced dead at 2306 GMT.

Bystanders were visibly shocked by the sudden, brutal intrusion of violence into a country which has not been involved in a war for 160 years.

"For us Swedes this really is horrible," one teenager said. "We voted for this man. You hear about these things happening everywhere else but not in Sweden."

The murder scene was by the entrance to an underground station which is on a direct line to the Gamla Stan (old town) area where Mr. Palme lived.

Occasional sirens broke the stillness of the night as police vehicles raced through the city centre.

Police said they had charged three women with offensive behaviour and one with obstructing the police. The man had not yet been charged.

The traditional Maori insult, called whakapohane (pronounced farkapohane), has been used as a symbol by anti-royalist protesters during the Queen's week-long tour of New Zealand.

A man was arrested in the North Island on Tuesday as the Queen and her husband Prince Philip toured Hawkes Bay and veteran protestor Dun Mikiha has been constantly shadowed by police after he pledged to give the royal couple a "21-bum salute."

"They (the police) seemed to be expecting it. As soon as they started to drop their pants, police dragged them to the ground and held them there," he said.

"I very much doubt if anyone in the entourage or even half the crowd could have seen it."

Robinson said the five were all whites not Maoris.

Other anti-royalist sympathisers complained that shortly before the Queen arrived police confiscated banners protesting against the Treaty of Waitangi.

Under the 1840 treaty Maori chiefs ceded sovereignty to the Queen's great-grandmother Queen Victoria.

The National Security Ministry said relief would be provided to fishermen affected by the ban, which it said would be lifted only when it was satisfied that illegal movements of men and material from south India had ceased.

Diplomats said the worsening ties between the two nations could hinder Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's efforts to find a political solution to the conflict between the island's majority Sinhalese and minority Tamil communities.

The president of the ruling United National Party, Harsha Abeywardene, sent a telegram to Mr. Bhagat on Thursday accusing him of making "incorrect and misleading" statements.

The Sri Lankan government said Friday that Tamil rebels and

Chile is next on U.S. list of reforms

BUENOS AIRES (R) — The Reagan administration will use the same policy of moving Chile towards democracy as it has used in Haiti and the Philippines, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliot Abrams said.

"The fundamental policy is the same," Mr. Abrams said.

"The question is if the tactics

that were successful in Haiti and the Philippines and in El Salvador will also be successful in Chile and we hope that that nation heads down the road to democracy."

Mr. Abrams was speaking during a satellite news conference broadcast to Latin America from Washington.

He said relations with President Augusto Pinochet's government

reforms

were good but the U.S. ambassador in Chile was nevertheless one of the most outspoken in seeking change in the country.

Opposition forces in Santiago said recently that the overthrow of Jean-Claude Duvalier in Haiti and Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines had given them a psychological boost in their effort to end Gen. Pinochet's more than 12 years of military rule.

Nicaraguan army 'can defeat U.S.'

LIMA (R) — Nicaraguan forces, backed with 300,000 rifles and mobile artillery, are now powerful enough to defeat any potential U.S. military invasion, Nicaragua's interior minister has said.

The minister, Tomas Borge, told reporters that U.S. invaders would be met by a barrage of artillery fire and would not be able to take the capital, Managua.

The leftist Sandinista government of Nicaragua repeatedly has charged that the United States is planning an invasion. Washington has denied such charges, but has given financial and moral backing to rightist rebels fighting the Sandinistas.

Mr. Borge said Nicaraguan strategists had mapped out where U.S. airborne forces would most likely land in an invasion, and these sites were within the range of artillery.

He added that invaders would not be able to carry out a pre-emptive strike against the mobile

Pentagon to develop AMRAAM missile

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon has said it would continue development of the sophisticated \$7 billion AMRAAM air-to-air missile following a study prompted by congressional questions over cost and technical problems.

U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger sent a letter to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees certifying that the missile was essential for the air force and navy and would be produced as efficiently as possible.

The advanced medium range air-to-air missile (AMRAAM) is being developed by Hughes Aircraft, a subsidiary of General Motors.

But both Hughes and Raytheon are expected to build a mix of 24,000 of the missiles following final development next year. The air force will buy 17,000 for \$5.2 billion and the navy will get another 7,000 for \$1.8 billion Mr. Weinberger said.

The missile is scheduled to replace the AIM-7 Sparrow air-to-air missile currently in use.

AMRAAM is a "SMART" missile that will allow a jet pilot to "fire and forget" the weapon. It will seek its own targets and can actually choose between a number of targets.

Congress, questioning the cost of the missiles, had given Mr. Weinberger until March 1 to certify the need and cost-analysis on the 327-pound AMRAAM or funds for full scale development would have been cut off.

Ershad ignores call to resign

DHAKA (R) — President Hosain Mohammad Ershad, under pressure from the opposition to step down, said Saturday he was firmly in power in Bangladesh.

Speaking at a rally in central Dhaka, he ridiculed an ultimatum last week from a seven-party alliance led by Begum Khaleda Zia of a "direct action" campaign if he did not resign by Feb. 28.

"Where is that direct action? Where are those revolutionary programmes?" he asked.

"I am still here, talking to you as the president of the country. I have not resigned. I am still calling

the shots."

Gen. Ershad did not name Khaleda but referred to her as a "lady who thrives in intrigues, confusion and covert ambition."

"Here is a lady who always acted from behind the screen to unsettle a previous government, taking advantage of the fissure within the ruling party," he said.

Khaleda, widow of assassinated President Ziaur Rahman, was a major critic of former President Justice Abdus Sattar and often accused him of encouraging corruption and favouritism.

Colombo protests to Delhi over genocide allegation

COLOMBO (R) — A row between Colombo and Delhi over Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict worsened Saturday when Colombo lashed out at an Indian allegation of genocide and again said Tamil separatist guerrillas were based in southern India.

The government said in a protest sent to Indian External Affairs Minister B.R. Bhagat that Indian criticism was biased.

The note, released to the press by the Foreign Ministry, said the Sri Lankan government took "serious note of recent unfriendly Indian government statements concerning Sri Lanka."

It said the government learnt "with surprise and deep disappointment" about remarks by Bhagat who told the Indian Parliament last Wednesday that killings of Tamil civilians by Sri Lankan troops contained "elements of genocide."

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in New Delhi, Bernard Tilakaratna, handed the three-page protest to Mr. Bhagat Saturday morning, the ministry said.

Sri Lanka said the fight for a separate Tamil state "stems from

a movement which has logistical training and operational base facilities, propagandist mechanism and a sanctuary in the territory of the state of Tamil Nadu in India."

Referring to Mr. Bhagat's promise to parliament to arrest forces of Tamil civilians by armed killings in Sri Lanka before the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, the statement said:

"The violation of human rights transcends boundaries and has occurred in innumerable situations and places. No more fitting comment could apply here than 'physician heal thyself'."

It said Sri Lanka noted "with considerable disappointment the evident bias" in Bhagat's remarks which it said recognised only the grievances of minority Tamils but not the fears and concerns of the majority Sinhalese and other communities.

But it said Colombo continued to look to the cooperation of the Indian and other friendly governments in resolving the ethnic conflict.

Two national newspapers published in Colombo Saturday cri-

ticism Mr. Bhagat for his statement.

The Independent Island said: "Whatever the reason, the Indian minister's remarks are ill-informed and unwarranted and smack odiously of an arrogant big brother mentality which Sri Lankans will resent."

"To say that there is genocide in Sri Lanka is either the act of a fool or a knave."

The state-run Daily News said that statements "picking wild charges, such as the charge of genocide" were not merely regrettable but could be dangerous.

In an editorial headlined "Bullying the Daily News asked: 'Is India asking the government of Sri Lanka to surrender to terrorism? To surrender to terrorist-backed demand for a mutilation of the island?'"

The president of the ruling United National Party, Harsha Abeywardene, sent a telegram to Mr. Bhagat on Thursday accusing him of making "incorrect and misleading" statements.

The Sri Lankan government said Friday that Tamil rebels and

weapons were entering the country from South India, enabling guerrillas fighting for a separate Tamil state to kill troops and civilians and damage state property.

In a bid to halt these movements, it said restrictions on fishing in territorial waters off the northern and north western coasts would be enforced from Sunday.

Only the 32 kilometre-wide Palk Strait separates Sri Lanka from the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, home to 50 million Tamils. India has denied previous Sri Lankan charges that guerrillas were being trained in camps in Tamil Nadu.

The National Security Ministry said relief would be provided to fishermen affected by the ban, which it said would be lifted only when it was satisfied that illegal movements of men and material from south India had ceased.

Diplomats said the worsening ties between the two nations could hinder Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's efforts to find a political solution to the conflict between the island's majority Sinhalese and minority Tamil communities.

COLUMN

'AIDS is not God's wrath against homosexuals'

ROME (R) — The influential journal of the Roman Catholic Jesuit Order has condemned as irrational a notion that the killer disease AIDS is God's wrath against homosexuals and drug addicts. Intravenous drug users and homosexuals, together with haemophiliacs, are the principle victims of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), which kills gradually by damaging the immunological system. In an article on the disease in the journal *Civitas Catholica*, Father Giacomo Perico wrote: "To bring up without the minimum proof the 'wrath of God' in worldly things and above all in those where the subjective responsibility of men exists, is a defence of morals with an improper instrument."

Shakespeare plays to be shown as Chinese operas

PEKING (R) — Several plays by William Shakespeare will be presented as Chinese operas in Shanghai in April at China's first Shakespeare drama festival, the China Daily newspaper reported Saturday. It said *Twelfth Night*, *A Winter's Tale*, *Macbeth* and *Much Ado About Nothing* would be performed as Chinese opera, known to foreigners for its sumptuous costumes, high-pitched singing and much noisy clashing of cymbals. "The adaptation of Shakespeare into our traditional local opera is a bold act — we want to see how Western theatre combines with our tradition," the newspaper quoted festival organiser Jiang Junfeng as saying. Jiang, secretary-general of the Shakespeare Society of China, said 2,000 people from China and abroad would be involved in the festival, which would also feature 14 plays by 12 Chinese theatrical troupes, seminars and lectures.

Magic 7 fails Marcos

MANILA (R) — Ferdinand Marcos' number was finally up on seven, a magic number in all his machinations. A staunch believer in numerology and astrology, Marcos always arranged political moves to coincide with numbers adding up to seven or multiples of seven. His most telling blows were reserved for the 21st of a month and elections for dates involving seven. He imposed martial law on Sept. 21, 1972, and arrested opposition leaders, including Sen. Benigno Aquino, the husband of the new Philippine President Corazon Aquino. A well-informed source said Marcos was obsessed with the "power of seven" since he won the presidential nomination at a Nacionalistas Party convention in November 1964 by 777 votes. When he became president in 1965 all "777" car plates were given to the presidential palace. The presidential yacht *Ang Pangulo* and the presidential plane also bore the 777 number. But his luck finally failed with an election on Feb. 7. He fled his Malacanang Palace on Feb. 25.

Reagan makes another gaffe

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, cutting off reporters' shouted questions on the Philippines, raised a touchy issue when he tamed aside and muttered "sons of bitches." The remark was picked up by television network audio equipment and tape recorders belonging to the pool of reporters gathered in the cabinet room for a photo-taking session before Mr. Reagan officially received the report of a commission on management of the Defence Department. Most of the five reporters — representing the Associated Press (AP), United Press International (UPI), Reuters, UPI Radio and Newsday — took immediate umbrage. But White House spokesman Larry Speakes said later that Mr. Reagan did not recall saying it nor did he recall anybody else in the room making the remark. "If he said anything, he said 'It's sunny and you're rich,'" Speakes told Reuters. Asked to whom Mr. Reagan might have been referring, Speakes replied: "They know who they are." The remark came after the president answered a series of questions about the wealth of deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his family, now in exile in Hawaii. He was then asked if he thought Marcos' successor, President Corazon Aquino, should have released from jail the leader of the Marxist movement in the Philippines. He replied with some "exasperation": "I don't know. I really don't know."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:**
 ♠A1102 ♠KQ3 ♠J5 ♠K98
 The bidding has proceeded:
 West North East South
 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?
 What do you bid now?
 A. — If you have agreed that two spades would be forcing, we would recommend that bid. However, most play that the overcaller is free to pass a simple change of suit, so you must cast about for some stronger bid. A jump to three spades would suggest a more unbalanced hand and better suit. We like the practical bid of a jump to three no trump. If partner has a spade fit, nine tricks should be as easy to make as 10.
Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠K10763 ♠A9742 ♠6 ♠A
 What is your opening bid?
 A. — The main attraction of your hand is its distributional features and length in the major suits. Therefore, you should plan to bid both your suits, and the practical way to accomplish that is to open the bidding with one spade, intending to bid your hearts next. You are not strong enough to bid hearts first, then reverse into spades.
Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠7 ♠Q9873 ♠J107343 ♠8
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South
 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠
 What action do you take?
 A. — This is not the time to hit the panic button and mount a rescue operation. Your suits offer no degree of safety at the two-level. Should your left-hand opponent convert to penalties, which seldom happens, partner will realize that the trump suit is stacked against him and he can act. For the moment, there is a chance that the opponents might alight in one of your suits. Pass.
Q.4 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠K7 ♠A763 ♠109542 ♠K7
 The bidding has proceeded:
 West North East South
 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠
 What action do you take?
 A. — Your hand overall, partner should have a fair hand and a reasonable suit — even though he acted only at the one-level. Raise to two spades. You do not need the same trump length to raise an overcall as you do to raise an opening bid.
Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠K1093 ♠K85 ♠KQ9 ♠J98
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 Pass Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠
 What do you bid now?
 A. — You have a balanced hand of 12 points, and there is a bid available that describes your hand exactly: a jump to two no trump. By a passed hand, that shows 11-12 points. Don't make the mistake of bidding one spade. Since you passed originally, that is not forcing, and partner might pass with a hand that is cold for a game at no trump.
Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠A8 ♠QK95 ♠A83 ♠K1076
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South
 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠
 What do you bid now?
 A. — You have the strength and the distribution for a jump to three no trump, but we would not recommend that action. Since you have only one diamond stopper, we can construct many hands where three no trump would go down when five clubs, or even a slam, would be a laydown. We would start with a cue-bid of two diamonds, and see how the auction proceeds.